FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 MARCH 1985

Israeli-Egyptian Contacts, PLO Comment

After talks with the Egyptian prime minister in Cairo on 28 February, the director general of Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' office described President Husni Mubarak's initiative as a "positive breakthrough" in the peace process, Jerusalem radio reported. Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal subsequently returned to Israel with a message from Mubarak to Peres, announcing that his talks with the Egyptians were "fruitful and friendly," according to the radio. Sources in Egypt cited by *MA'ARIV* linked Shahal's visit to a possible "imminent" summit meeting between Peres and Mubarak.

Meanwhile, Alignment and Likud ministers reacted differently to Mubarak's initiative. While Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Jerusalem radio that Israel should announce its agreement to Mubarak's proposal, provided that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation does not include the PLO, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi described the initiative as a "trap" and warned that the latest contacts with Egypt are "dangerous," according to the radio. In a statement broadcast by IDF radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stressed that he does not regard Egypt's ideas as a contribution to peace but rather as an obvious attempt to induce the United States to hold official contacts with the PLO.

For Egypt's part, President Mubarak said in an interview reported by MENA that he will provide details of his proposal for joint Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian talks during his forthcoming visit to Washington. Reporting on the details of Mubarak's initiative, as conveyed to Israel by Mubarak's adviser Usamah al-Baz, the Israeli paper *'AL HAMISHMAR* said it would allow both Israel and the PLO to veto the composition of the Palestinian representation in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

However, a PLO official statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio affirmed that the "correct" framework for finding a just solution to the Palestinian problem is an international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO. PLO officials Khalil al-Wazir and Muhammad Milhim openly rejected Mubarak's initiative in statements reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Al-Wazir announced that the PLO "categorically and completely" rejects the Egyptian proposals, and Milhim emphasized that the PLO-Jordanian agreement is the "minimum" that is acceptable to the PLO. Moreover, the PLO is seeking amendments to the PLO-Jordanian agreement, according to a PLO spokesman cited by Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH*. The amendments call for a unified Arab delegation to any peace conference instead of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and for Palestinian self-determination immediately after an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Assassination of Iraqi Diplomat

Unidentified gunmen assassinated an Iraqi diplomat and his son at their residence in Kuwait on the night of 28 February, INA announced. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry denounced the "cowardly" crime and urged the Kuwaiti authorities to take swift measures to apprehend the killers, according to the agency.

Shooting of Former Libyan Diplomat

A former Libyan ambassador to Austria was hospitalized with serious injuries after being shot by a gunman near his Vienna home, ORF Teletext reported. The ambassador is considered to be an opponent of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime following his fall from favor 5 years ago.

PDRY Leader's Tour

In a cable to President Hafiz al-Asad, broadcast by Damascus radio, PDRY chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad noted that his visit to Syria provided an opportunity to exchange views on Arab developments, a subject on which "our opinions were identical." The PDRY leader subsequently arrived in Libya where he was received by Col al-Qadhdhafi, according to Voice of Greater Arab Homeland Radio.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid, in a speech broadcast by Algiers radio, confirmed that Algeria and Morocco recently held "unannounced" contacts on the Western Sahara problem. He said Algeria will attend a Maghreb summit meeting "provided the Saharans attend," adding that Algeria will not commit itself to such a meeting "while there is still a Saharan problem" and that "there will not be an Arab Maghreb without the participation of the Saharans." As for the wider Arab world, Bendjedid stressed that Algeria does not believe in "buffoonery and oneupmanship" and he said it will continue efforts to narrow the differences between Syria and the PLO.

Lebanon

Minister of State Nabih Birri has reached an understanding with Prime Minister Rashid Karami that the cabinet will begin discussion of political reforms in "open and successive" meetings, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. In another development, Acting Interior Minister Joseph Skaf disclosed that Birri and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt have agreed to close down all party offices at Beirut Airport and remove "political immunity" for all offenders, according to Beirut radio. The authorities also intend to fence in the airport and reinforce the Army units in the area, Skaf noted.

Iran

Request for UN Team — A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by IRNA urged the United Nations to send its POW inspection team back to Iran and Iraq for further investigations into a number of matters including the fate of Iranian MIA's.

Relations With PRC — At a meeting with visiting PRC State Councillor Zhang Jingfu, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that "rapid steps" will be taken to expand bilateral relations, IRNA reported. He warned the Chinese visitor that the United States is trying to exploit the PRC's huge internal market to sell "trashy" goods.

Bangladesh

In a speech to the nation on 1 March, Chief Martial Law Administrator Hussain Mohammad Ershad postponed the 6 April elections and scheduled a 21 March referendum to get the "verdict of the people" on whether he should stay in power, Dhaka radio reported. A boycott of the elections by opposition parties was cited as the main reason for the move.

Pakistan

Reporting on the 28 February elections for four Provincial Assemblies, Karachi radio spoke of "peaceful and orderly polling" in all major cities and towns with a higher turnout than in the National Assembly elections on 25 February. Nevertheless, 10 people were killed in violent incidents during the elections, according to Delhi radio, and over 100 others were arrested for fraudulent voting or for advocating a boycott of the poll.

In another development, Karachi radio announced President Ziaul Haq's decision to dissolve the Federal Advisory Council established by the interim constitution of 1981.

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'Arafat Interviewed on PLO-Jordanian Agreement
PM010946 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 1 Mar 85 pp 21-24

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat —identified by his nom de guerre 'Abu Ammar — by 'Alaf al-Zayn in Tunis on 21 February]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Observers have noted that the agreement with Jordan was announced a few hours before King Fahd's talks with President Reagan and they linked the announcement of the agreement with these talks. Is there any connection between the announcement of the agreement and the talks in question, or was the timing of the two events a mere coincidence?
Abu 'Ammar: The agreement between us and Jordan was the result of long meetings that took place prior to the PNC meeting in Amman and continued for 2 months afterward.

However, King Husayn and I were anxious to reach this agreement before King Fah'd's talks with the U.S. President began so that the Arab leader could talk with U.S. officials on the basis of a national stand strengthened by Arab solidarity.

AL-HAWADITH: We have learned that shortly before meeting Reagan, King Fahd went into a side room and held a long telephone conversation. He asked the party at the other end of the line for news of this agreement and whether it had been finalized.
Abu 'Ammar: In fact, there were constant contacts between us and [Saudi Foreign Minister] Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal during his visits to both Syria and Jordan. The Palestinian and Jordanian delegations were in constant contact with him during their meetings. When we reached an agreement we informed Amir Sa'ud of our intention to announce it. At this time King Fahd was about to meet with Reagan. In the meantime we were in contact with all the Arab countries in order to keep them informed of the talks that were going on.

AL-HAWADITH: From a Palestinian standpoint, how do you appraise the results of the king's visit, considering that the announcement of your agreement was a surprise to the Americans, although agreement with the Jordanians was one of their principal demands
Abu 'Ammar: I have not been acquainted with the results in detail. I am waiting for an envoy from His Majesty King Fahd to see me, or I might go to visit the king personally and learn of the results first hand. I will find out what went on during the king's talks with the U.S. President and the other U.S. officials regarding the Palestinian problem.

AL-HAWADITH: During your talks with King Husayn two points of difference emerged. The first concerned acceptance of Resolution 242 and the second, Palestinian representation at an international peace conference. How did you resolve these differences and what were the other points of difference?
Abu 'Ammar: First I would like to say that the Jordanians are convinced that the Palestinians must be represented on an equal footing with the other parties concerned with the Middle East crisis in any search for a solution. This is clear in the text of the declared agreement.

Our viewpoint is that we should be part of a joint Arab delegation, while the Jordanian viewpoint calls for a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Nevertheless, the Jordanians are not against the idea of an Arab delegation.

With regard to Resolution 242 we have stated our views clearly. We called for land in exchange for peace on the basis of UN resolutions and international legality, including the Security Council resolutions.

AL-HAWADITH: Are there still any outstanding points of difference between you and King Husayn?
Abu 'Ammar: So far I do not think that there are differences. Whatever views we have or the Jordanian side has we discuss in explanatory letters.

AL-HAWADITH: Before coming to power the Israeli Labor Party was in favor of exchanging land for peace, which is the essence of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement. Do you believe that Israel under Labor Party rule will recognize the UN resolutions, including Resolution 242, or will the UN body produce a resolution encompassing all the other resolutions that would satisfy the PLO?
Abu 'Ammar: Israel will not accept this, nor will the United States.

AL-HAWADITH: Therefore the agreement [with Jordan] is heading for a dead end.
Abu 'Ammar: I do not conclude agreements to please the United States or to win Israel's acceptance. I conclude agreements with the aim of mobilizing all the Arab resources, including the resources of the two important parties to the conflict, Jordan and the Palestinians, in order to create a solid base for continuing the struggle. As the Palestinian statement said, the agreement is not an axis. It is a bilateral agreement, yet it stems from the Fes summit resolutions and from joint Arab action. As we have said, the agreement we signed with King Husayn calls on and urges all the Arab parties to check backing and support.

AL-HAWADITH: Most of the Arab fronts are closed to any escalation of military action, yet you talk about the escalation of military struggle. The agreement with Jordan has made it difficult to coordinate with certain potential fronts from which you could operate. How will you then escalate armed action?
Abu 'Ammar: There are two locations from which shooting is taking place, from our occupied territory and from southern Lebanon, where the Palestinians and the Lebanese are creating a new epic for our Arab nation. They previously created an epic in Beirut and now they are creating one in southern Lebanon. They will also create it together in the occupied territories, whether Lebanese or Palestinian territories. Is this not one of the most important events in our Arab nation's history?

AL-HAWADITH: We have heard that you will return to Lebanon — which you described as a hornet's nest — after the Israeli withdrawal from the south. How true is this?
Abu 'Ammar: I am present in Lebanon, in every Palestinian compatriot, in my allies, in every heroic Lebanese resistance fighter, and I am present in every tough Palestinian resistance fighter.

AL-HAWADITH: In militant struggle geographical proximity to the battlefield is of vital importance. Do you believe that in your struggle you will come much closer to Palestine?
Abu 'Ammar: Yes, you are right, but I believe that Amman is closer to Jerusalem.

AL-HAWADITH: Since we agree on the importance of geographical location, when will you move your headquarters from Tunis to another place closer to Palestine?
Abu 'Ammar: I say that Amman is closer to Palestine because I have a headquarters in it. I also have headquarters in Tunis, Sanaa, Sudan, and Algeria. Do you know what I am called?
AL-HAWADITH: What are you called?
Abu 'Ammar: They call me the flying Palestinian. I have 10 bases and I go from one to another.

AL-HAWADITH: Much is being said about arms beginning to reappear in the camps and about foreign elements taking advantage of the Israeli withdrawal from Sidon to infiltrate these camps. As a result, people are in a state of great anxiety and fear about an inter-Palestinian conflict or an attack similar to what took place at Sabra and Shatila. Who would benefit from such clashes, and do you have any guarantees that these will not take place?
Abu 'Ammar: I would say that, unfortunately, I have a feeling that there is a conspiracy, in which the present is the most critical state. Yet the conspiracy that was targeted against our camps in Beirut and the south is less serious than the conspiracy against the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps [in northern Lebanon].

AL-HAWADITH: President Mubarak is going to Washington in April. Will you ask him to convey a Palestinian viewpoint or a particular proposal for a solution? Did you receive a promise from the Egyptian president regarding the opening of a dialogue between you and the United States?
Abu 'Ammar: There is no such promise, either on Mubarak's part or on our part. There has been no discussionn of this matter. We did not ask him nor did he ask us. However, I will not forget when President Mubarak went to the United States and stood on the same spot as Al-Sadat stood after signing the Camp David agreement and said: I am with the PLO; I am with an independent Palestinian state; I ask Reagan to talk to the PLO. However, the U.S. stand has not changed. As recently as the day before yesterday a U.S. State Department spokesman made a negative remark about the PLO Executive Committee statement.

AL-HAWADITH: In the view of international political circles the Syrian figure seems to be the most difficult in the equation for a settlement. You announced that reconciliation attempts with Syria have failed. Do you expect the Syrians to block your agreement with Jordan and with the new axis that you have formed with Egypt?
Abu 'Ammar: I do not think that the Syrian figures is the most difficult. There is a secret agreement being implemented in Lebanon today; it is an extension of the agreement with Philip Habib. With regard to whether the Syrians will seek to sabotage our relations with Jordan, I must backtrack a little and recall the times when relations between Syria and Jordan were good and unity was established between them. We then asked the Syrians to mediate in order to forge relations between us and Jordan. I would like to reveal something here for the first time: After the Rabat summit in 1974 an Egyptian-Syrian-Jordanian-Palestinian committee was set up in order to restore relations between the PLO and Jordan and to coordinate the four parties on the grounds that they are the Arab parties directly concerned with the conflict with Israel. This committee met only once in Cairo, and its second meeting was scheduled to be held in Damascus. Afterwards, Syria enjoyed unity with Jordan and with the same King, who has not changed. Therefore, how can relations with Jordan be nationalistic when the Damascus rulers are pleased with and demand such relations, yet become non-nationalistic when they are established between Jordan and the PLO? Yet we have still not closed the door to Syria.

AL-HAWADITH: The Soviet Union has strongly attacked your agreement with Jordan, believing that it weakens the PLO's role. Do you believe that the Soviets will continue their efforts with Damascus in order to bring about reconciliation?
Abu 'Ammar: I have not been officially informed of this stand, and there is no official Soviet stand on the agreement.

AL-HAWADITH: The Soviet stand toward the agreement was expressed in *PRAVDA*. Cairo's *AL-AHRAM* immediately replied to this negative attitude.
Abu 'Ammar: The agreement that took place between Andropov and myself in 1983 clearly refers to the agreement by both sides on the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. *PRAVDA* spoke about the different views on the agreement, and was a review and analysis, not an official Soviet statement.

AL-HAWADITH: Last week you visited Romania and met with President Ceausescu. It is known that Romanian-Israeli relations were never severed and that Shim'on Peres also went to Romania and met with Ceausescu. Could you tell us something about the Romanian role in bringing the viewpoints closer?
Abu 'Ammar: My visit to Romania had nothing to do with Peres' visit. Do not forget that Romania is the only country in the socialist bloc that attended our PNC meeting. I went there in response to an invitation from the Romanian delegation to the PNC. Romania is for an independent Palestinian state and for an international conference. It has welcomed the agreement with Jordan.

'Arafat Receives Egyptian Officials in Tunis

JN281747 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received Dr Murad Ghalib, former Egyptian foreign minister, and Lutfi al-Khuli, secretary of Arab affairs in the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, in Tunis yesterday. The meeting was attended by Brothers Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member; Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department; and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of Fatah Central Committee and PLO Executive Committee.

Our correspondent has learned that the meeting dealt with the latest political developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas

and the threats against the Palestinian issue and the pan-Arab issue at this crucial stage.

PLO Spokesman Decries AP View of 'Arafat's Remarks

JN281724 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1644 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] An official PLO spokesman has stated the following:

The interpretation broadcast by AP of Brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] statement to the Lebanese magazine *AL-HAWADITH* regarding the PNC's agreement to all UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue as an acceptance of Resolution 242, is an erroneous attempt at interpreting these statements and PNC resolutions. This is completely unfounded. The PLO hopes that news agencies will take care regarding statements by Palestinian officials, particularly those statements pertaining to PNC resolutions.

PLO 'Waiting' for Jordan's Reply to Amendments

GF281342 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 27 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, spokesman for Yasir 'Arafat, said yesterday that the PLO is waiting for a reply from Jordan on whether it accepts introducing amendments to the draft agreement.

He said that the amendments include two points:

1. The formation of a unified Arab delegation to any peace conference instead of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, as had been originally mentioned.

2. Palestinian self-determination immediately following Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories instead of within a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

Al-Wazir Meets With Jordanian Officials

JN281754 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] No official Jordanian position has been announced so far on President Husni Mubarak's proposals for peace in the Middle East. A number of Palestinian officials, including Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, held consultations with a number of senior Jordanian officials on the current situation. However, nothing has been announced on the contents of results of these consultations. After the meeting [as heard], Abu Jihad asserted that the PLO categorically and completely rejects the Egyptian proposals, pointing out that these proposals serve the Camp David line and contradict the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on joint action.

Palestinians React to Mubarak's Peace Proposal

PLO Spokesman

JN281729 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1644 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] An official PLO spokesman has made the following statement:

Intensive political and diplomatic moves in the Arab region have been recently accompanied by statements attributed to Egyptian officials. While affirming our appreciation and respect for Egypt's role, we would like to state the following:

The PLO believes that the convocation of an international conference under UN auspices with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties concerned with the Arab-Zionist conflict — including the participation of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative, on an equal basis with the other sides — is the correct framework for finding a just solution to the Palestinian issue and the Middle East crisis and in ending Israeli occupation of all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

Executive Committees's Milhim

JN281241 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has rejected President Husni Mubarak's Middle East peace proposal. Milhim said that the proposal conflicts with the Jordanian-Palestinian plan of joint movement, the previous PNC resolutions, and the Arab summit resolutions. He added that this agreement [as heard] may also be intended to drag the PLO to a new Camp David. He stressed that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is the minimum that is acceptable to the PLO in any effort to solve the Middle East question. Muhammad Milhim said that the PLO is currently bleeding, but has not reached the stage of capitulation and that the PLO will continue to reject the U.S. attempts to destroy it since this is the objective of some of the current moves in the region. Muhammad Milhim's statements are the first reaction to President Mubarak's proposals by a PLO Executive Committee member.

On another level, some Palestinian officials residing in Amman today held consultations with Jordanian officials. The contents and results of these consultation have not been publicized.

PFLP, DFLP

JN281640 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus — The PFLP has again asked all the Palestinian forces, factions, and figures to quickly unify their ranks within a Palestinian national front in order to confront the

Husayn-'Arafat agreement of plotting, whose real dimensions were recently revealed through the statements of Egyptian ruler Husni Mubarak. A responsible source in the PFLP told reporters today that Mubarak's initiative is fresh proof that these capitulatory political moves are based on the Camp David agreements in form and substance.

The source noted Mubarak's forth coming visit to Washington and the series of moves and contacts that are preceding this visit among the Egyptian regime, the Jordanian regime, Washington, and Tel Aviv, something which definitely proves that Mubarak's proposals are the practical interpretation of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement, which was reached through the good offices of Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian ruler's political adviser.

Concluding, the source stressed the need to close the ranks of all the Arab forces and progressive national regimes in order to confront the plots that are aimed at applying the Camp David policy to the Arab arena. The source pointed out that the current plots are not only aimed against the Palestinian revolution and cause, but also at imposing U.S.-Israeli reactionary domination on the entire region.

In a statement also issued in Damascus today, the office of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] said that Mubarak's call is for holding separate, direct negotiations under the supervision and in the presence of the United States and the Egyptian regime without PLO participation. The DFLP said that the call is meant to confine Palestinian participation to capitulationist figures that agreed to the Camp David accords and the King Husayn plan. The front affirmed the need to completely reject and foil the Amman agreement as well as Husni Mubarak's initiative. It said that this is the only way to prevent the application of the Camp David surrender; this application is by imposing the autonomy plot and dividing the governing of the Palestinian people and their national soil between King Husayn and the Zionist enemy .

The DFLP concluded its statement by calling for continued action to unify the front [as heard] and the masses in order to foil the Amman agreement and prevent any defeatist Palestinian elements from participating in Mubarak's liquidationist initiative.

ASL Military Position Attacked in S. Lebanon

JN281757 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The heroes of the Palestinian and Lebanese joint forces launched a machinegun and rocket attack yesterday against a military position belonging to the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon [ASL] in Al-Nabatiyah in occupied southern Lebanon. A number of agent elements were either killed or wounded as a reuslt of the attack. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation but, as usual, did not mention any losses. He said that his forces and elements from the agent militias immediately launched an extensive search and arrest campaign in an attempt to find the joint forces heroes. However, their attempts were in vain.

BAHRAIN

Foreign Minister Meets GCC Secretary General

GF281312 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Manama, 28 Feb (WAKH) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah met in Manama today with GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah.

During the meeting they reviewed the issues which will be discussed on 1 March during the meeting between officials of the GCC countries and the GCC Secretariat, and EEC officials, in addition to issues of interest to the GCC countries.

'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah arrived in Bahrain last night to attend the meeting.

KUWAIT

Four Unidentified Armed Men Kill Iraqi Diplomat

LD011023 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] A responsible security source announced in a statement to KUNA this morning that four unidentified armed men attacked the assistant Iraqi cultural attache, Hadi Awwad Said, and his son Hasan, at 0130 last night in their house and opened fire on them. The source said the Iraqi diplomat's son died immediately, while Hadi Awwad Said died later in a hospital where he had been taken for treatment.

The source added that the security men who had arrived on the scene of the incident, immediately embarked on an investigation to ascertain the identity of the perpetrators of the crime. KUNA reports that there is no further information regarding the crime and its perpetrators at this time.

OMAN

Oil Minister on Production, OPEC Membership

GF281512 Doha QNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Muscat, 28 Feb (QNA) — In a statement to the Omani newspaper *AL-WATAN* published today, Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari, Omani minister of petroleum and minerals, said that Oman's oil production has been increased from 400,000 to 420,000 barrels per day. Commenting on the possibility of Oman's joining OPEC, the Omani minister said that his country has no intention of becoming a member of OPEC due to Oman's insufficient level of oil production. However, he affirmed the Sultanate's adherence to OPEC resolutions.

Briefs

Air Agreement With Morocco — Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman has issued a decree ratifying an agreement on establishing air service between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Morocco. [Summary] [*Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Feb 85 GF*]

PDRY

Prime Minister Denies Political, Party Differences

GF011007 Doha QNA in Arabic 0913 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Mar (QNA) — Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers, has said that the Iraq- Iran war is the biggest threat to peace and security in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. He expressed the hope that area countries will play an important role in ending the drain on human and economic resources.

In an interview with *AL-ITTIHAD* published today Al-'Attas said that the entry of other parties into the conflict, be they Arab or non-Arab, will further inflame the Gulf war and may lead to an armed intervention by external forces.

The chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers praised the PDRY's relations with the Gulf Arab countries and said that the PDRY's relations with these countries are normal. He expressed the hope that the forthcoming meeting in Aden with an Omani delegation on the demarcation of the PDRY-Omani border will yield positive results and said that the two sides are looking forward to such results. Al-'Attas noted that recent PDRY-Omani meetings have demonstrated the common desire of both the PDRY and Oman to reach positive results.

Al-'Attas said that the current exploration and prospecting for oil and minerals in the PDRY indicate encouraging results. He said that his government attached special importance to the development of this branch of the national economy in view of its vital importance.

The chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers said that the new cabinet formed in the PDRY in mid-February does not constitute a radical change in the policy of the Aden government, but was in response to the country's present objective and subjective circumstances. He denied reports that the formation of the new government which he leads was the result of political and party differences. He said that his government will concentrate on continuing the efforts to achieve progress and to fully develop the national economy by comprehensive scientific planning of the country's economic growth and development, the maximum exploitation of the financial and human resources in the development process, good preparation for the third 5-year plan, and the development of relations with area countries in all fields.

Further Reportage on Arab Parliamentary Union Session

Al-'Attas Receives Iraqi Official

GF281850 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Haydr Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received

in his office this morning Brother S'ad Qasim Hamudi, chairman of the Arab and International Affairs Committee of the Iraqi National Assembly and chairman of the Iraqi delegation participating in the 15th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU]. They discussed fraternal bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, and also exchanged views on the issues on the agenda of the APU's 15th session.

Brother Haydr Abu Bakr al-'Attas affirmed our country's stance on the Iraq-Iran war. He noted the need for countries of the region, the Arab countries, and international society to seek means to end this war, the continuation of which will only serve the purposes of the imperialist and Zionist powers. He said that our country will continue its efforts and contributions toward a peaceful solution of the conflict.

The meeting was attended by Dr Mutlaq 'Abdallah Hasan, member of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the Supreme People's Council Presidium.

Session Ends; Statement Issued

GF010632 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The Arab Parliamentary Union Council concluded its 15th session at the Aden Hotel this evening. The meetings were held from 26 to 28 February. The final session was attended by all fraternal Arab parliamentary delegations participating in this session.

Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-Barawi has been reelected APU secretary general for the next 2 years. Dr al-Barawi announced the session's final statement, which was approved by all participants.

The final statement gave thanks to the PDRY, led by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, for the welcome, hospitality, and preparations which facilitated the meetings and ensured its success.

It also noted the PDRY's role in enhancing Arab solidarity and admired the revolution achievements the PDRY has achieved under the YSP. The statement referred to the topics discussed in detail by the parliamentarians, including fateful Arab issues and the parliamentarians' role toward them. It noted the constructive spirit of fraternity which dominated the fraternal debates enabling Arab parliamentarians to issue their resolutions and recommendations.

The resolutions and recommendations emphasized the need to strengthen Arab solidarity during these hard times through which the Arab nation is passing. The parliamentarians affirmed the need to consolidate the struggle by the Lebanese people and their national democratic forces in resisting the Zionist aggression and for efforts to evacuate Zionist forces from southern Lebanon.

The APU called for a halt in the Iraq-Iran war and called on the two parties to resort to peaceful negotiations to end this war.

The parliamentarians asserted the freedom of shipping in international waters and sea routes and the need to protect them from danger. They denounced the mining of the Red Sea, which is considered one of the world's most important sea routes. They considered this a criminal act contravening all international norms and regulations.

The Arab parliamentarians expressed their deep concern over the U.S. and Zionist threats against Syria. They affirmed Syria's legitimate right to strengthen its defense capabilities and to help Lebanon in evacuating the Zionist forces from its territory. They called for supporting Syria in its steadfastness and stand against imperialist and Zionist plots.

Regarding relations between Arab parliaments with other world parliaments, the Arab parliamentarians emphasized the need to use various means to strengthen relations between them. They also emphasized the importance of the Arab-African dialogue, Arab-European dialogue, and Arab-Latin American dialogue. They also emphasized the need to consolidate relations and expand a dialogue with socialist countries' parliaments.

The resolutions affirmed the need to strengthen coordination among Arab parliaments and their delegations during the 73d APU conference to rally support for the Arab decision [made at the Fes summit] and to discuss all aspects of the Palestinian issue and the Gulf war during this international parliamentary gathering.

The meeting approved the financial committee's report and plan and agreed to hold its next session in Amman, Jordan.

Ethiopian Party Delegation Concludes Visit, Departs

GF281334 Aden Domestic Servcie in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Ethiopian Workers Party delegation led by Ashagre Yigletu, member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia, left Aden today after several days' visit. During the visit, the delegation held meetings with a number of YSP officials.

Romania Sends Congratulatory Cable to Al-'Attas

GF281404 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 85

["Text" of congratulatory cable from Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, to Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, on his appointment as chairman of the Council of Ministers]

[Text] On the occasion of your appointment as chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers, it is my pleasure to send to you on behalf of myself and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the warmest congratulations, wishing you robust health and happiness.

We are confident that the exerted joint efforts betweeen our countries will strengthen the friendly relations and cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the PDRY for the benefit of the Romanian and the Yemeni peoples and for consolidating world peace and cooperation.

YAR

Spokesman Denounces Israeli Actions in Lebanon

GF281836 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] An official spokesman has issued the following statement: The YAR follows with great concern the repressive policy and the terrorist practices being carried out by the Zionist forces in southern Lebanon against villages, towns, and civilian residents.

While it denounces such brutal actions, the YAR demands an end to such aggressive Zionist practices against the fraternal Lebanese people and their national sovereignty, and against human values and international agreements [words indistinct]. It demands the condemnation of such treacherous actions which constitute a flagrant violation of the Geneva agreements and UN resolutions and UN Security Council resolutions which call for an immediate withdrawal of Israeli invasion forces from all Lebanese territories.

While it affirms its solid and basic support for the fraternal Lebanese people in exercising their legitimate right to self-defense and liberating their sacred land from the Zionist invaders, the YAR calls upon the international community to adopt positive stands in supporting the fraternal Lebanese people in achieving success in their rightful causes and to support their legitimate struggle to expel the Israeli usurpers from southern Lebanon.

Briefs

Envoys to Morocco, Malta — 'Abd al-Wahab Mahmud presented his credentials today to King Hassan II of Morocco, as YAR ambassador plenipotentiary to Morocco. 'Abd al-Wahab Jahhaf presented his credentials to the Maltese President as nonresident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Malta. [Summary] [*Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 85 GF*]

Mubarak Discusses Upcoming Visit to Washington

NC281505 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has stated that he will visit Washington to provide details of his proposal for joint Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian talks and to discuss the points of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement reached on 11 February.

In an exclusive interview with AFP, President Mubarak said: My proposal has aroused some debate and controversy in the U.S. capital, but has at the same time received serious attention. The United States may have reservations; perhaps it has not fully understood our proposal. Therefore, the proposal for a dialogue between the United States, Jordan, and the PLO must be clarified and explained to U.S. officials.

President Mubarak said: We still have 10 days before the visit. We are also getting the opinion of the Jordanians and the Palestinians on our proposal. The president was thus hinting at his upcoming meeting with King Husayn of Jordan.

He added: Other parties, including Israel, can formulate other proposals, but our objective remains an overall solution in the Middle East that does not neglect the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

President Mubarak said: We have submitted our concept. We welcome any proposal that is better than ours.

Asked about when and where an international conference on the Middle East might be held, President Mubarak said: I do not impose the venue of the conference on anyone. If there is agreement to convene an international conference, and if the parties concerned agree to convene it, we will welcome such a conference if it will lead to a solution. If the parties concerned agree to convene an international conference in Cairo, I do not object.

Asked if he feels optimistic about his proposal, President Mubarak said: There will inevitably be adverse reaction to my proposal. No proposal can satisfy all parties, but the existence of my proposal, which could be amended or added to, might lead to talks on the path of a solution. What we are trying to do is narrow the gap between the viewpoints of the two sides so that we may start the talks, a practical thing for us to do.

Concerning his upcoming visit to the United States on 9 March, President Mubarak said: There is continuing cooperation between us and the United States. The United States gives aid to us and to Israel. Perhaps U.S. aid to Israel is larger than U.S. aid to Egypt because of special circumstances existing between Israel and the United States. We do not like to interfere in this matter, but Israel is asking for more and we are asking for more. We have problems and Israel has problems. We have a population of 48 million. Therefore, I will discuss economic problems and the financing of the military debt. Naturally, the main issue for us is the military debt and the high rate of interest on this debt.

President Mubarak said: The interest on the military debt is tiring us and slowing down our economic and social development plans. The Egyptian people will benefit when these burdens are reduced.

In response to a question on his conditions for meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and on whether this meeting would facilitate matters, President Husni Mubarak said: How can I amend the conditions or points? I do not consider them conditions, but points. How can I amend them? Would I tell the Egyptian people and the world that I am prepared to meet with Shim'on Peres and return the ambassador when the points, which are fundamental to the issue, are not solved? If I ignore these points and agree to meet with Peres, then no one in Egypt will believe me in the future. Any step I take in this respect will make me lose my credibility. The reaction of the Egyptian people and the whole area will be bad for the peace process and the Middle East issue. It would not lead to good results regarding the peace process and Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Asked whether he is expected to meet with Yasir 'Arafat again in Cairo or anywhere else, President Mubarak said: I do not want to embarrass anyone by meeting me, because his circumstances might not allow him to come to Cairo. However, this does not mean that there is no dialogue between us and the PLO. The dialogue is continuing. Many PLO members come to Cairo for talks. The PLO knows that Egypt greatly supports the Palestinian issue and that it has made many sacrifices since the issue arose.

President Mubarak said: Egypt has so far spent 100 billion Egyptian pounds since 1948 because of the Palestine issue. Moreover, Egypt has sacrificed approximately 100,000 people —killed, wounded, or disabled — in wars because of the Palestine issue. All of this has led to reducing the standard of living in Egypt. Despite all this, we have not given up the Palestine issue. No one has aided us financially, and no one has compensated us for our losses in these wars.

Concluding his interview with AFP, President Mubarak said: French-Egyptian military cooperation calls for mutual satisfaction. There is no doubt that France, unlike the United States, cannot offer assistance without expecting something in return.

'Ali Confers With Israel's Tamir on Peace Process

NC281627 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today received Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Israeli Prime Minister's Office. Tamir said that he conveyed a message to Kamal Hasan 'Ali from the Israeli prime minister.

He said that the meeting dealt with Middle East issues and the peace process in the region. Assistant Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, Charge d'Affairs of the Egyptian Embassy in Israel Muhammad Basyuni, and Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason, attended the meeting. Tamir arrived in Cairo this morning.

'Abd Al-Majid on Foreign Policy Objectives

Explains Mubarak Initiative

NC281602 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has stated that the main objective of President Mubarak's ideas is to prevent a deadlock in the situation in the area. Such a deadlock would threaten basic Arab rights, above all the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Another objective of President Mubarak's ideas is to maintain the momentum generated by the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of 11 February. The PLO Executive Committee has approved this agreement, which is the primary basis for action toward a peaceful settlement.

The foreign minister said: Egypt believes that this historic move deserves every support and backing. As a first step, a dialogue should start between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, during which the next steps of action will be defined.

The foreign minister said: Undoubtedly, Egypt reaffirms its position that the composition of the Palestinian delegation is completely up to the decision of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He added: In light of this, it is now premature to envisage the convocation of a quadripartite conference. What is important is the submission of formulas and ideas about future steps for promoting the peace process. This is something Egypt is eager to do.

Regional Issues; Soviet Ties

NC281148 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that peace is a fundamental tenet of Egyptian foreign policy, and that Egypt's move toward the peace option stems from its long history as a defender of right and justice.

He noted that peace is linked to stability and that both are indispensible to a free and democratic way of life, and to efforts to achieve prosperity and social development. He added that Egypt's work for peace and stability is an integrated objective that enjoys unanimous popular support at home, and widespread support abroad.

The foreign minister discussed Egypt's relations with Israel at his meeting today with organizational secretaries attending the NDP's center for national studies. He said: We are eager to fulfill all the commitments we assumed in the peace agreement, and we are trying to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

He said that some of Israel's positions have impeded progress toward peace. The current Israeli Government has sent some positive signals. Egypt welcomed the decision to withdraw from Lebanon, and we have also begun negotiations on Tabah and on border demarcation. He added that the Palestinian problem is a basic component of Egyptian policy. There can be no peace without a just settlement that gives the Palestinian people an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination.

According to Dr 'Abd al-Majid, upcoming developments in the Palestinian issue will mark the beginning of a unique stage in the settlement of the Middle East problem. The agreement between Jordan and the PLO was an important development in Arab affairs and in the Palestinian issue. He stressed our respect for independent Palestinian decisions and our refusal to accept any interference in the PLO's internal affairs. He said: We are fighting every attempt to harm this agreement.

The foreign minister affirmed that Egypt's political policy is symbolized by its assumption of special responsibilities toward the Arab and Islamic world. The events of the past few months show the vitality of Egypt's role, despite the voices of extremists and those seeking to outdo us. He said the purpose of Egypt's insistence on peace is to reach a just settlement of the Middle East problem.

He noted that the march toward integration with Sudan is proceeding along its defined course, which will guarantee progress for both countries.

The foreign minister stressed that Egypt has been and will continue to be a source of strength for the Arabs and vice versa. We believe that solidarity is the only way to win all our rights and achieve our common interests. This is particularly true in light of the fact that the Arabs' human and cultural resources will provide all the solutions for our problems.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt welcomes the unconditional restoration of relations with Arab countries, as Egypt imposes no conditions of its own. Egypt is committed to its international agreements and respects its obligations. He described Egypt's absence from the Arab League as one of the major reasons for Arab differences in the region. Egypt's strength lies in its people and in its men. It is capable of carrying out its regional role. He added that Egypt's support for Iraq is support for the Arabs' existence and being, and is also a defense of the Gulf states.

He said: There are no disputes between us and the Syrian and Libyan peoples. Visits take place between Egypt and Libya, and the Egyptian people are not hostile to anyone. We will respond to any encouraging sign we receive from the leadership of either country.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid praised the African states' support for our issues, and said: We assert our ties to Africa. The Namibian issue and racial discrimination in South Africa receive our closest attention.

As for Egypt's relations with the Islamic world, the foreign minister said: We look forward to an Islamic world where integration, cooperation, and common interests prevail. The restoration of Egypt's membership in the ICO has given more scope to this cooperation.

On the resumption of relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, the foreign minister noted that relations already existed;

what happened was that our ambassadors returned. He pointed out that there are no problems between ourselves and the Soviet Union as long as the USSR does not interfere in our internal affairs.

'Abd al-Majid on Israeli Actions in Lebanon

PM281255 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Feb 85 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Egyptian Foreign Minister: Israel's Actions in Lebanon Further Complicate Situation"]

[Text] Cairo — Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that Israel's military actions in southern Lebanon complicate the problem and further aggravate the situation.

In an exclusive statement to *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* the Egyptian Foreign Minister said that the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon was a constructive step, but it has not been completed.

Asked whether Egypt is contemplating returning its ambassador to Tel Aviv following the Israeli withdrawal, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the ambassador's return has its known and declared conditions, one of which is Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Replying to a question regarding Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' announcement, following his visit to Romania, regarding the possibility of Israel's accepting the idea of convening an international conference provided there are guarantees, such as the existence of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union, a PLO renunciation of terror, and a more positive UN attitude toward Israel, the Egyptian Foreign Minister said: Israel is free to lay down the conditions it deems fit. We consider the international conference one means of solving the problem. Also, all the parties concerned should participate in it. As we have already said, there could be some practical difficulties, but our principled stand is that Egypt welcomes any steps to move the situation in the area and to give impetus to the peace process, and that stand is clear and unambiguous.

Israeli Energy Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

NC282225 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2218 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal left Cairo for Israel this evening following a 3-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, the Israeli minister was received by President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

MAYU Interviews NDP's Khalil on Mideast Situation

PM271503 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 25 Feb 85 p 16

[Interview with NDP Deputy Chairman Dr Mustafa Khalil by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] Al-Sa'id: Talks on the Middle East were held between the two giants in October 1977, and on 19 February this year further talks on the subject were held between them. The question is, is the ground today prepared, more than it was 7 years ago, for reaching a common denominator between U.S. views and Soviet views regarding a settlement in the area?

Khalil: Here we must take into account what the U.S. side was anxious to reiterate until before the recent Vienna talks were held — that these talks are not negotiations. Which means that they are different from the disarmanent talks, for example: The latter talks would lead to the solution of a problem on which negotiations have taken place, and then the solution would become binding on both sides in accordance with laws. But the talks on the Middle East are merely an exchange of views and a review of the stands of both sides. And, as the United States said, these were to prevent friction between them in the area.

Al-Sa'id: This means that the talks held between them were for the purpose of conciliation between them to create an opportunity for the settlement of issues in the area. Therefore it is wise to be suspicious of any agreement of views between the two giants regarding the area that may emerge.

Khalil: One is afraid that the talks could have been held mainly for the redistribution of spheres of influence between them, exactly as happened in Yalta, despite the fact that the conditions prevailing now are different from those that prevailed then. Therefore, in my estimation, when the two giants hold talks on the area they are in fact reviewing the situation in the areas sensitive for them.

Al-Sa'id: In light of the current developments, there is an inclination to involve the Soviet Union in the efforts being made to achieve a settlement in the area. The proponents of this idea believe that the only formula that would achieve any progress would be a joint U.S.-Soviet initiative.

Khalil: In my view any initiative must basically come from the two sides to the conflict, especially the Arab side. We have several initiatives, the latest being the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. This is in view of the fact that the two giants' attitude toward solving the Middle East problem is well known. They both agree on the need for Israel to be recognized by the Palestinians and the Arabs, although the Soviets are clearer than the U.S. side with regard to recognizing the PLO and other Palestinian demands. But what is important is that they both agree on the need to solve the dispute through negotiations and peace. However, there remains one single point of disagreement — the Soviet Union's desire to participate in the peace process and the U.S. rejection of this in response to Israel's request.

Al-Sa'id: This means that the Soviet Union will remain precluded from participation as long as Israel has the final say and rejects the Soviet Union's participation in the peace process.

Khalil: By reading Israel's foreign policy in the area and the statements of its officials, it becomes clear that Israel always portrays itself as the strategic ally of the United States and that it is the striking military power in the area. Proceeding from this premise, it has been able to convince U.S. public opinion and the U.S. military establishment to conclude the recent agreement between them, an agreement that gives Israel many great advantages. Therefore, the Israeli politicians' portrayal of their state

as being a powerful ally of the United States is considered a basic element in Israel's policy, whether from a military aspect or economic aspect. Israel's rejection of Soviet involvement is confirmation of this policy toward the United States.

The second point is that Israel's policy is based on military superiority over its neighbors, and therefore the Soviet Union's supply of arms to Syria and the PLO is contrary to Israel's policy.

Al-Sa'id: Can the Israeli rejection of the Soviet Union be viewed as further implementation of the U.S. ally's policy of confronting the Soviet tide in the region?

Khalil: Yes, definitely. Israel wants to prove to U.S. public opinion and the U.S. Administration that it stands as a barrier against Soviet influence penetrating the area. And as long as no agreement is reached between the two giants on the question of nuclear arms limitation, they will both continue to be wary of one another.

Al-Sa'id: Contrary to Israel, certain Arab parties see the need for Soviet participation today in the peace process and view this as a political gain to strengthen the Arab stand.

Khalil: Negotiations basically rest with the parties to the conflict. In other words, if agreement is reached between King Husayn and the Palestinians and agreement of views is reached in the future with Israel on this agreement as a basis for negotiations, then in this case the other Arab countries must approve, as long as Husayn and the Palestinians have agreed to support such an agreement. As long as these negotiations will not result in an agreement between Israel and the other Arab countries, I do not think that these countries have a right to dictate views different from those of who are directly concerned with the problems themselves. On the contrary, I would expect the Arab countries to endorse what the Palestinians agree upon. As for the rejectionist countries, they might continue rejecting, but this means nothing since they no longer have any control over Palestinian decisionmaking.

Al-Sa'id: If there is common ground for negotiations between the parties to the conflict, will such negotiations be under the aegis of an international conference including the two giants or will they be under a U.S. umbrella in accordance with the "full partner" slogan?

Khalil: We must recall here that if Israel continues to refuse Soviet participation in the peace process — despite indications that the recent Vienna meeting touched on the question of allowing Soviet Jews to emigrate in accordance with the Helsinki human rights agreement, a bargaining point that Israel might exploit in the future in return for abandoning its insistence on rejecting Soviet participation. [sentence as published]

To this must be added Shim'on Peres' recent demand that the Soviet Union restore its diplomatic ties with Israel and his demand for diplomatic ties with China in return for which he might reconsider Israel's attitude toward an international conference. The implication here is that Israel will exploit the question of an international conference as a means for obtaining political advantages. On the other hand, with the Soviet's announcement of their rejection of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement, there is now a need to convince the Soviet Union to approve the agreement, particularly since it is intended to participate in an international conference.

Al-Sa'id: This means that the U.S. role as a full partner is no more than that of an observer.

Khalil: It is actually closer to an observer's role than that of a partner. In the event of differences of views between the two sides, the other partners' votes on this or that problem are not taken. Indeed the intervention by the United States that used to occur sometimes used to come as a last resort. Therefore, if the Soviet Union or the European members of the Security Council or the United States are present at any negotiations, their role will be no more than that of an observer.

Al-Sa'id: While certain Arab parties concerned favor the convening of an international conference, there are no indications that such a proposal is likely to succeed. On what is our stand now based, particularly since many things have not yet been clarified?

Khalil: Principally what we should take note of here is that the PLO, having liberated itself from tutelage, has finally agreed to the Palestinian problem being solved through negotiations and peace, despite the contradictory reports that referred to reservations by the PLO Executive Committee regarding Resolution 242 and President Reagan's initiative, and the fact that the agreement must depend on full Arab support. For this reason the failure to announce the text of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement immediately, although it has now been announced, was actually to give the Executive Committee the time to discuss it carefully and adopt a decision on it in a democratic manner expressing the Palestinians' will. Also this would give Egypt greater flexibility in moving and in negotiating with the U.S. side.

Al-Sa'id: What about the area? On what our is stand now based?

Khalil: The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement gives Egypt greater flexibility in moving and negotiating with the U.S. side and the Israeli side. We hope that when President Mubarak goes to Washington he will succeed in finding a formula acceptable to the parties concerned in the peace negotiations.

Al-Sa'id: How can we play a role while there are differences between us and Israel that have not been resolved?

Khalil: Our differences with Israel concentrate on three points —our insistence on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, which is on its way to being implemented after Israel has completed the first stage and announced that it will withdraw finally in September at the latest; the difference over the treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, regarding which Peres announced his intention to respond to Egypt's demand for building up confidence and the treating of Palestinians in accordance with the Declaration of Human Rights; and the difference over Tabah, regarding which last week's negotiations in Beersheba are to be continued later. Egypt's demand in this regard is clear — recourse to arbitration in accordance with article seven of the

peace agreement. Therefore, we are progressing toward removing differences, and indeed I believe that they have actually been removed. Therefore, Egypt's positive role in favor of the Palestinian problem will be more influential than it used to be with the existence of these differences.

Al-Sa'id: If we review two opposite courses in the area we would see a U.S. course of strategic cooperation with Israel, strong defense ties with Saudi Arabia, cooperation with the GCC states, and special relations with Egypt. On the other hand there is a Soviet course of close ties with Syria and Libya, a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the PDRY, good relations with Iraq, and gradual rapprochement with some Gulf states, such as Kuwait. Is this likely to suggest that there is almost a balance between them that would lead to stability in relations between the countries of the area?

Khalil: There is something fundamental that needs to be clarified. This is that one of the principal factors that determine the extent of relations between one state and another is the extent of similarity of political and social systems between them, although this does not prevent the existence of balanced relations with other foreign countries with different political systems. Such relations are not confined to political ties, but also include economic ties and arms supplies so that a state can defend itself. This plays a major role in determining the type and degree of relations. On the basis of this analysis we can explain the extent to which the Arab countries go in their relations with the two giants. There is now definitely a balance between the two giants, but this balance has not achieved any stability in the relations between the Arab countries, now torn by disputes.

Therefore we would be grossly mistaken, and it would be an illusion to think that the two giants can solve our problems and achieve stability for us. Solving our problems must first and foremost depend on us, our strength, and our influence on the course of events.

AL-AHRAM Examines Abu Ghazalah Washington Talks

PM281853 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 28 Feb 85 p 1

[Hamdi Fu'ad report: "Positive Results for Abu Ghazalah's Talks in Washington"]

[Excerpt] Washington — The talks which Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and War Production Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah is currently holding in Washington have had positive results so far, in that the United States has shown understanding of the Egyptian demands which Marshal Abu Ghazalah has emphasized. These were:

Expediting the delivery to Egypt of the requested aircraft and weapons on schedule and in accordance with Egypt's defense needs. This was under an agreement on a long-term program for the development and modernization of the Egyptian Army's weapons. The program is to be implemented over several years while the development program is to be updated annually.

The importance of solving the problem of the payment of interest on military debts due from Egypt, with a view to enabling Egypt to meet its financial obligations resulting from this interest. Egypt contracted to purchase arms from the United States as far back as 1977, that is, before it was agreed that arms sales to Egypt should become an outright grant. The U.S. Administration has shown understanding of Egypt's request for additional economic aid to repay military debts so that the repayment of these debts and the armament program do not constitute a burden on the Egyptian economy.

Increasing military aid to Egypt. The U.S. Administration has asked that this be set at $1.3 billion in the 1986 budget. During the contacts in Washington, Egypt explained that the world economic situation and instability in the Middle East have led to a reduction in oil prices. Egypt's income from the Suez Canal revenues, and from remittances from Egyptians working abroad, have also decreased. Income from tourism has also dropped. On the other hand, prices of U.S. aircraft and weapons have increased. In addition Egypt needs to train its Army in the use of modern weapons, especially aircraft, and to develop air defenses and surveillance equipment.

'Ali Confers With Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister

NC281701 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today received Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Sheka Kanu. 'Ali said that they discussed bilateral cooperation, African issues, and international topics. Kanu remained in Cairo following the departure of the Sierra Leonean president and his delegation on 27 February.

Senegalese Envoy Concludes Visit, Departs Cairo

NC281128 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1123 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — Ahmed Khalifah Niasse, the personal envoy of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, left Cairo this afternoon on his way back home at the end of a 3-day visit, during which he met with Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and handed him a written message from the Senegalese President to President Husni Mubarak.

Tourism Minister Leaves for Visit to GDR

NC281204 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — Dr Wajih Shindi, minister of tourism and civil aviation, left Cairo this afternoon. He is leading a delegation of tourism officials on a 3-day visit to the GDR. During his stay, he will attend meetings of the Chamber of Tourism, scheduled to take place in Berlin in 2 days.

'Ali Schedules Late March Visit to Romania

NC280709 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0643 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — According to *AL-AHRAM*, Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will pay an official visit to

Romania at the end of March, after President Husni Mubarak returns from his upcoming tour. In a report published in today's edition, the paper adds that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu is scheduled to receive Kamal Hasan 'Ali during the visit. The prime minister will also hold talks with his Romanian counterpart.

Gunmen Kill Iraqi Diplomat, Son in Kuwait

Details Given

JN010927 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Mar (INA) — Four unidentified gunmen assassinated an Iraqi diplomat and his son in their home at 0130 today. The gunmen stormed the house of Iraqi diplomat Hadi Awwad Said, assistant cultural attache at the Iraqi Embassy in Kuwait, and fired at him while he was asleep in bed. The gunmen also killed the diplomat's son, Hasan Hadi Awwad, a student in the Iraqi Dujlah School, who was also asleep.

Investigation is being conducted by the competent authorities to identify the perpetrators of this cowardly act.

Foreign Ministry Statement

JN010936 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0928 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA) — The Foreign Ministry has denounced the cowardly crime carried out by four gunmen last night that led to the martyrdom of Hadi Awwad Said, assistant cultural attache at the Iraqi Embassy in Kuwait, and his son. A foreign Ministry spokesman today hoped that the fraternal Kuwaiti authorities will adopt effective and quick measures to arrest the criminals and exact a just punishment on them.

Armed Forces Issue Communique No 1,756

JN281735 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Communique No 1,756 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 28 February 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The sons of great Iraq are daily proving their high ability to defend the land and dignity. They are continuing their brave operations against the defeated Iranian clique's forces. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our giant Air Force, with its advanced weapons and competent performance, is continuing to tighten its stifling grip on the enemy's oil resources. At 2300 yesterday , our fighter planes attacked a large maritime target near Khark Island and scored an accurate, effective hit. Our planes returned to base safely and triumphantly. Victory comes from God.

2. Our fighter planes have been meting out punishment to the remnant Khomeyniite forces and destroying their equipment east of Basra since this morning, leaving flames and columns of smoke rising from the targets that were hit. Our planes carried out 53 combat missions before returning to base under God's protection.

3. Several Iraqi artillery units pounded selected enemy positions in the central sector killing five, wounding others, and destroying six infantry positions, one machinegun position, one observation post, and one small vehicle. Those manning the infantry positions were killed.

4. Our brave artillery units attacked a number of enemy targets and engineering equipment east of Basra, inflicting immense losses. Five enemy infantry positions were destroyed and those manning them killed.

5. Our artillery men directed heavy fire at the enemy's weapon emplacements and mortars, which had been positioned in the Maysan sector. Enemy guns were silenced. Elsewhere in the same sector, one of our capable patrols captured servicable equipment and weapons while operating in the prohibited zone.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 February 1985

Released Iranian POW's Hold Press Conference

JN281937 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1748 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) — The Iranian POW's who were captured by the Iraqi forces recently and whose release was ordered by President Saddam Husayn have asserted that the Iranian leadership had not payed their salaries for 6 months because of the regime's economic difficulties. Speaking at a press conference attended by Arab and foreign reporters here today, the POW's said that the Iranian Army is currently facing a very difficult situation in terms of mobilization and weaponry. They also said that the educational sector is paralyzed after the universities were closed and students forced to go to the battlefront.

The Iranian POW's hailed President Saddam Husayn's initiative in ordering their release, and praised the treatment they received from the Iraqi forces from the moment they were captured. They also said that a Red Cross committee has held several meetings with them in order to make arrangements for them to leave Iraq.

Interior Minister Returns From GDR Visit

JN282055 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2024 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) — Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and interior minister, returned to Baghdad this evening after an official visit to the GDR. During the visit, Shakir held talks with GDR officials on expanding and promoting cooperation between the two countries. Shakir also signed a protocol on cooperation between the two countries' Interior Ministries within their cooperation agreement signed in [word indistinct].

Oil Official Returns From Regional Tour

JN281314 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) — 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, Oil Ministry under secretary and chairman of the Iraq National Oil Company, returned here today following a tour of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain.

In a statement to INA, 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim said that he discussed with the Jordanian energy minister the areas of bilateral cooperation in the field of oil, especially oil extraction in Jordan.

He added that his discussions with Saudi officials included joint oil projects and the progress made toward the implementation of the Iraqi oil pipeline through Saudi territories.

Parliament Called Into Extraordinary Session

JN281127 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Amman —A royal decree has been issued calling Parliament to convene in an extraordinary session the day after tomorrow, Saturday, to discuss 110 provisional and amended draft laws.

Further Reports on Turkish Labor Minister's Visit

Received by Prince Hasan

JN281532 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Amman, 28 Feb (PETRA) — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Mustafa Kalemi, Turkish minister of labor and social security, at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning. They reviewed bilateral relations and cooperation in the economic fields in general, and manpower in particular.

Attending the meeting were the minister of labor and social development, the public works minister, and the Turkish ambassador in Amman.

Signs Agreement; Departs Amman

JN281646 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Mustafa Kalemi, Turkish minister of labor and social security, and the accompanying delegation left Amman today following a 3-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, Kalemi held talks with Dr Taysir 'Abd al-Jabir, minister of labor and social development, and Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry and trade. The talks dealt with promoting bilateral relations in the fields of labor and workers, and economic relations.

The Jordanian side led by Dr Taysir 'Abd al-Jabir and the Turkish side led by Dr Kalemi signed a memorandum stressing the desire for stronger cooperation in the field of labor and workers. The two sides also expressed their conviction, reassurance, and agreement on all issues related to labor and worker affairs in the two countries. They also stressed the need to continue consultations and coordination in international forums and conferences. They decided to transfer the issues pertaining to labor problems to the joint committee entrusted with this task.

In a statement to a PETRA correspondent, Dr Mustafa Kalemi expressed his happiness and that of the accompanying delegation with meeting His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, the prime minister, and with the talks he held with the ministers of labor and social development and industry and trade. He added that this visit has given him and the accompanying delegation the opportunity to discuss cooperation between the two countries, particularly regional cooperation.

AL-RA'Y Criticizes Mubarak's Statements

JN281110 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Feb 85 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Pillars of the Jordanian Stance"]

[Text] The last 48 hours have witnessed successive events in Cairo and occupied Jerusalem. They began with President Mubarak's so-called initiative which came in a statement to a U.S. newspaper. In this statement, President Mubarak asked the Reagan administration to invite a Jordanian-Palestinian and an Israeli delegation to hold negotiations under U.S. sponsorship without insisting that the Palestinians in the delegation be PLO members.

Following this initiative, 'an unknown Egyptian visitor' whose name was not disclosed by Cairo, left for occupied Jerusalem. However, all foreign radios revealed that the visitor was Dr Usamah al-Baz, who met with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. A second Egyptian envoy then appeared in occupied Jerusalem. He was Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, who also met with Peres and stated that he had conveyed a message from President Mubarak to the Israeli prime minister.

He added that he had discussed ways of activating and intensifying peace efforts in the region in addition to Egyptian-Israeli relations with Peres.

In Cairo there was a meeting between President Mubarak and Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, a meeting that reporters were not allowed to photograph or follow up.

It is noted that Israeli reactions to the initiative and the meetings held were as follows: First, Peres expressed his happiness because the initiative dropped the condition of PLO participation in the proposed negotiations. He viewed this as a positive change. Second, Menahem Begin expressed the same feelings. Third, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was careful to say that the initiative affirms that Camp David is the only basis for negotiations.

The reactions of Arab parties opposed to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement exploited Israeli reaction in order to undermine the agreement, cast doubt on it, and claim that it cancels the PLO's role and abandons the call for an international conference.

Regarding the Israeli reaction, the counterreactions, and the contents of the initiative itself that were announced, the following facts, which represent the pillars of the Jordanian stance, should be emphasized:

1) Jordan has not accepted and will not accept replacing the PLO in any negotiations.

2) The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement did not drop or bypass the PLO's role. This is clear in the accredited official text of the agreement.

3) Jordan, which rejected the Camp David agreements, adheres to its unwavering stand toward them. It believes that they cannot be a basis for any negotiations.

4) The UN resolutions, collectively, serve as a basis for negotiations. This is what Jordan believes and what was stipulated in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

5) An international conference is the indispensable arena for negotiations as stipulated in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

Everyone knows these pillars. Nobody can interpret anything that has happened or is happening as being Jordanian divergence from them. Jordan has been and will always be clear in its stands as the Arabs have known it to be at all times.

Skaf Condemns Israeli Decision Banning Reporters

NC281415 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Joseph Skaf, minister of information and acting interior minister, commented on the decision by the Israeli occupation forces to ban Lebanese journalists and foreign correspondents in Beirut from entering the Israeli-occupied areas in the south and to censor their dispatches. He described these steps as additional repressive measures of the sort used by the occupation forces to conceal what is actually happening in the occupied areas from the eyes of the world public, which has strongly condemned their actions. These practices go beyond all limits of imagination.

Minister Skaf added: The world media's reports on events in the south show once again that the people of the south are united in their view of the Israeli occupation and in their continuous confrontation of the Israeli machine. The Israelis continue to strike blows with their so-called iron fist in a desperate attempt to bring the people of the south to their knees.

Minister Skaf noted that he has been in touch with several Arab and international media, and has urged them to condemn such actions and to take joint steps to publicize these known Israeli practices. He strongly condemned the fact that foreign and local correspondents have been beaten at Israeli checkpoints and in the occupied areas.

Skaf Chairs Meeting on Airport Security

NC281415 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Acting Interior Minister Joseph Skaf today chaired a meeting attended by Public Security Director General Jamil Ni'mah, Internal Security Forces Director General Samih al-Sulh, Army Chief of Staff Major General Mahmud Tayy Abu Dargham, Airport Security Chief Brigadier General Yasin Suwayd, Gendarmes Commander Colonel George Nujaym, Civil Aviation Director General Zuhayr Baydun, and senior officers of public security, Internal Security Forces, and Customs.

During the meeting, Minister Skaf outlined how the Cabinet's decisions will be implemented and what measures must be adopted in this respect. Minister Skaf said that during the Cabinet meeting Minister Salim al-Huss conveyed to the Cabinet the approval of Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt to close down all the party offices within the airport and to remove political immunity for all offenders. Minister Skaf said that the participants presented their views on current questions and that all agreed that closure of the offices and removal of political immunity were most important, and that this must be effected on the ground, as any other measures will be of no avail. Minister Skaf said that the talks were confined to two subjects — the implementation of security measures within the airport and ensuring protection along the roads leading to the airport. In respect to the first subject, he said that it is deemed necessary to close down the party offices; in respect of the second, it is deemed necessary to fence in the airport, to reinforce the Army units, and to deploy patrols along the roads to the airport.

Minister Skaf added: During the meeting, I called Minister al-Huss, with whom we agreed to request Airport Security Commander Brigadier General Yasin Suwayd and his aides, Colonel Mahmud Fawwaz and Major Mahmud Matar, contact representatives of the Amal movement and the Progressive Socialist Party to set a date for the closure of party offices at the airport.

Birri Agrees To Attend Cabinet Meetings

NC282159 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri declared that he has reached an understanding with Prime Minister Rashid Karami to convene open and successive Cabinet meetings to discuss political reforms, beginning with the legislative decree.

Prime Minister Karami said that Minister Birri informed him that he will attend the Cabinet meeting on 4 March. Minister Birri met with Muhsin Dallul, Progressive Socialist Party deputy leader, and gave him a message for Minister Walid Junblatt on the content of the agreement with Karami.

Group Investigating Israeli 'Crimes' Arrives

NC281346 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] A delegation from the international committee investigating Israeli crimes, led by the committee's chairman, Judge (John Blacksmiller), arrived in Beirut today. The group intends to complete an earlier visit to Lebanon to reveal Israel's crimes and its actions against the sons of the occupied areas. The delegation also hopes to find Lebanese witnesses to testify at the committee's general conference in Bonn, which will be held in late March.

Security Council Discusses Complaint Against Israel

NC282019 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The UN Security Council concluded its first round of discussion on the Lebanese complaint against Israel's arbitrary actions in southern Lebanon at approximately 2015 tonight, after hearing statements by Lebanon, Qatar, Syria, the Israeli enemy, and the United States. Ambassador Fakhuri said that a vote is not expected before next Tuesday or Wednesday.

Sha'ban Reiterates Right To Prosecute Criminals

NC010755 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Islamic Unification leader Sa'id Sha'ban stressed that he is not prepared to relinquish his movement's right to prosecute. He added: We will not hand over convicted criminals to anyone, even though some have said that the Islamic Unification Movement would hand over those murderers to the state or to the regime. From our point of view, Sha'ban said, they were sent by

the regime together with their car bombs. Handing them over would be like handing the culprit to his mother, who would never punish him for his crimes.

This statement was made at a time when the Phalange Party is handing over all detainees to the state. In this framework a Phalangist delegation will turn over six detainees to the legal authorities today.

Israeli Post on Al-Qasimiyah Bridge Attacked
NC281031 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] At 1715 yesterday, during curfew, the Martyr Hasan Qasir Group of the Lebanese national resistance used katyusha rockets to attack a position held by the occupation forces on the Al-Qasimiyah bridge. A number of soldiers manning the position were hit, and a 5-minute battle ensued. Israeli military helicopters and ambulances were later seen evacuating the dead and wounded from the position. There are no exact figures on the human and material losses suffered due to the security cordon imposed around the area by the occupation forces.

Magazine Claims Imam Al-Sadr Alive in Libya
NC281034 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The Paris-based *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI* magazine in its 1 March edition says that Imam Musa al-Sadr, who disappeared at the beginning of April in 1978, is alive and well and has been held in Libya for over 6 years.

The magazine added that Al-Sadr is held in Bab al-'Azaziyah barracks, which are located near Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's house, and that he is being detained in Libya after a stormy meeting took place with Al-Qadhdhafi. Al-Sadr and members of his delegation were led to the desert where his companions were executed. The magazine added: The imam would also have been executed, had Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud not interceded.

Loan Agreement Signed With Common Market
NC281628 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1510 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Finance Minister Camille Sham'un today signed the agreement concluded between the European Common Market and the Lebanese Government.

The agreement was signed at Sham'un's temporary office at the Finance Ministry in the presence of the European Common Market representative to Lebanon (Lorenzo Lary).

The Lebanese Government had asked the European Market for a loan of 8,828,000 Lebanese pounds as aid for national union which will be later offered to the agricultural cooperative.

The agreement was signed in the presence of the director general at the Finance Ministry, Dr Khattar Shibli; the acting director general of cooperatives; and the representative of the national union.

Army Intelligence Chief Leaves for Damascus
NC281258 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Within the framework of the current contacts between Beirut and Damascus to resolve political and security problems, Colonel Simon Qassis, the Army intelligence chief, left for Damascus today. He will meet with Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to fix the date of his visit to Beirut, where he will participate in efforts to bring views closer and to reach an understanding on topics under discussion.

Al-Shar' on Lebanon, U.S., Jordan-PLO Accord

PM281940 Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 25 Feb-3 Mar 85 pp 22-23

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Wadi' al-Hilu in Damascus — date not given]

[Excerpts] Despite factors preventing the closure of the Lebanese file, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' appears to be confident about the future. To him it is not a question of willing something to happen automatically. "The process of closing the Lebanese file is in progress. Everyone is aware of the gradual improvement in the Lebanese situation. Syria uses the same language with all the Lebanese sides and urges everyone to seek understanding and accord."

Syria uses the same language with the government and the opposition. So far, Al-Shar' says, Syria has not seen any insurmountable obstacles in the Lebanese attitudes.

In his interview with *AL-NAHAR AL-ARABI WA AL-DUWALI*, Faruq al-Shar' says that ending the Israeli occupation of Lebanon is the objective prerequisite for closing the Lebanese file. He adds that Israel benefited from the Lebanese civil war and the Lebanese-Palestinian conflict in preparing a suitable popular base before invading Lebanon in 1982, but what Israel did on the ground contrasted with what it said on the eve of the invasion. Israel had promised to expel the Palestinian resistance and respect Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, but its subsequent practices, Al-Shar' says, confirm to all the Lebanese people that Israel coveted Lebanese territory and water, and that it wanted to impose its control and hegemony on Lebanon and its resources. The disappointment made the Lebanese reconsider the alliances which existed at one stage in Lebanon's political life, and so the Lebanese returned to the Damascus course.

He adds: Damascus has proven that it supports Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence, and President al-Asad has proven that the protection of Lebanon's unity and independence is a Syrian national duty.

[Al-Hilu] But what about the verbal escalations? What about PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] leader Minister Walid Junblatt's call for the regime's downfall?

[Al-Shar'] We cannot separate that call from the occasion on which it was made. That occasion was the anniversary of 6 February and the Al-Shahhar battle. The occasion made feelings run high and reminded people of the situation before then. The Lebanese opposition considers 6 February to be a national day. All kinds of things are said on such occasions, but those who say them soon resume realistic political work. Such work necessitates a return to the Cabinet and then resumption of political work based on reality, not slogans. Accordingly, the Syrian Foreign Minister expects Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt to begin attending Cabinet meetings again. He considers the verbal escalation to be a temporary thing.

As regards, Israel, having realized that its invasion of Lebanon was a failure, it has been trying to conceal the Syrian-Lebanese victory by causing explosions and grudges among the various Lebanese sides. Israel's current actions are a coverup for its failure in Lebanon.

[Al-Hilu] What about the Arab situation in the wake of the Amman agreement between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Shar'] Some Arabs are mistaken if they think that more Arab concessions would lead to less Israeli intransigence. Those who signed, sponsored, or supported the Amman agreement should read former Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's book *Peace in the Desert*. Dayan spoke about the Israeli Army's incursion into the West Bank of the Suez Canal in 1973. It was that, he said, which later led to former Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat's decision to visit occupied Jerusalem. That means that Israel believes in the use of force, not in the language of peace some Arabs are trying to use in an attempt to get Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab territories. Israel will increase its threats and will be more intransigent in the face of the Jordanian-Palestinian interest in peace.

If we assume good intentions on the part of these Arabs, we would say that their concept is based on illusions. If we assume ill intentions on their part, we would say that these people are parties to a hostile plot, which will fail. The strength of Syria's position is partly due, in addition to Syria's military might, to Syria's realistic understanding of what is happening at the Arab and international levels. Syria knows the real Israeli policy, the limits of superpower relations, and what is and is not negotiable. Making concessions to Israel would only lead to more intransigence. That is why the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement will never lead to a political settlement of the Middle East crisis. The Soviet Union rejects the U.S. monopolistic and single-handed approach to a settlement. The Middle East will not be bartered in the negotiations or talks between the two giants. The aim of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is to form an alliance against Syria based on the claim that the two parties to the agreement want peace, but Syria is against peace.

[Al-Hilu] What about U.S.-Syrian relations in the light of Syria's contribution to the release of the U.S. journalist [from Lebanon] and the subsequent telephone conversation between Presidents al-Asad and Reagan?

[Al-Shar'] Syria's contribution to the release of U.S. reporter Jeremy Levin should be viewed in a purely humanitarian context. As regards President Reagan's telephone contact with President al-Asad, he just thanked him for Syria's humanitarian initiative. That incident should not be seen as anything more than it was. There are U.S.-Syrian relations. These relations have not been severed. It would be an exaggeration and it would be unrealistic to say that the release of the U.S. reporter will lead to a change in Syria's policy toward the United States. Equally, it would be an exaggeration and unrealistic to say that President Reagan's thanking President al-Asad for his efforts will lead to a change in U.S. policy toward Syria, or that the contact will lead to a change in the U.S. policy in the Middle East. Both assumptions are unrealistic. The United States backs and supports Israel. In fact, both are joined by a strategic alliance which Syria considers and sees as a hostile alliance.

The United States contributed to the Camp David agreements, blessed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, supervised the 17 May agreement, and is now blessing the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. The United States is pursuing a policy hostile to Syria and the Arab world, and to their legitimate rights to independence and sovereignty. Unless the United States abandons its attempts to impose its hegemony on the Arabs and its policy of separate solutions, U.S.-Syrian relations will remain as they are, because the Syrian policy will not be swayed with sweet talk. Furthermore, the U.S. anti-Arab policy will not change overnight. The United States must change its policy in the region as a precondition for an improvement in U.S.-Syrian relations. So far there is nothing to indicate such a change. On the contrary, the United States is giving Israel more aid than is giving in federal aid to any of the states in the United States itself.

[Al-Hilu] That leaves the question of reports about possible Syrian mediation between Iraq and Iran.

[Al-Shar'] There is no Syrian mediation in the Iraq-Iran war. The direct reason for that is that any state or side wishing to mediate between two states is supposed to enjoy close relations with both states, which is not the case here. Although the Gulf war is raised at Syrian-Arab meetings, the fact remains that raising an issue is one thing and speaking of mediation is quite another. [Saudi] Prince Abdallah's visit and his meeting with President al-Asad were for the purpose of conveying congratulations [on Al-asad's reelection]. The visit of Prince Bandar [Saudi ambassador to the United States] was for the purpose of briefing President al-Asad on King Fahd's talks in Washington, where the king emphasized the role of Arab consensus and the Fes resolutions.

PDRY Leader Confers With Habash, Hawatimah

JN010714 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] During their meeting with PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in Damascus yesterday, Dr George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, stressed the importance of quick action to confront the dangers posed by the 'Arafat-Husayn-Mubarak game on all levels and called for pooling all Palestinian and Arab efforts to confront and topple this capitulatory move.

Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reviewed with Habash and Hawatimah practical steps to encircle and topple the Amman agreement. It was agreed to work out a suitable formula to close the ranks of the national and progressive Arab forces and regimes for the sake of facing up to the fateful challenges posed by the conspiratorial schemes.

PDRY Chairman Concludes Visit

JN281256 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and his delegation left Damascus at 1230 today. President Hafiz al-Asad headed those who saw him off at Damascus International Airport.

Following his departure, the PDRY chairman sent the following cable to President Hafiz al-Asad:

While leaving this fraternal Arab country, I am pleased to send you and all our Syrian brothers warm fraternal greetings, expressing to you our profuse thanks for the welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us throughout our brief visit to Damascus. This visit was an opportunity to exchange information and opinions on developments in the Arab region. The talks between our two delegations showed that our opinions were identical on these developments. As we express to you our satisfaction with the fruitful results of our visit and our fratenral meeting with you, we are greatly confident that our fraternal cooperation and our cohesion within the framework of the forces of the national liberation movement will be promoted and bolstered at all times in a manner that serves our common objectives and our just struggle against the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary schemes.

I would like to seize this opportunity to greet Syria's wonderful steadfastness. We also appreciate the successes that the toiling masses have accomplished in the fields of economic and social development.

Further Coverage of Visiting GDR Journalists

Khaddam, Heinrich Confer

JN281432 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA) — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Eberhard Heinrich, chairman of the GDR Association of Journalists, and his delegation today. Reinhard Escherich, GDR ambassador in Damascus, and Dr Sabir Falhut, chairman of the Syrian Journalists' Union, attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with the situation in the region and the world and the role of the media in bolstering the peoples' struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Agreement Signed

JN281537 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1250 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA) — A cooperation agreement was signed here today between the Syrian and the GDR Journalists' Associations. This came at the end of the visit the GDR journalists' delegation paid to Damascus, which lasted for several days. The delegation was led by Eberhard Heinrich, chairman of the GDR Journalists' Association.

In two friendly speeches exchanged on this occasion, Dr Sabir Falhut, chairman of Journalists' Association, and Mr Heinrich voiced the depth of the friendship between the two countries' peoples and their determination to promote bilateral press relations to the high level of the political and struggle relations between the two countries.

Comrade Heinrich presented the book, *Journalism: Theory and Practice*, prepared jointly by the two associations and printed in Berlin to serve journalists in both countries.

The new agreement stipulates bolstering cooperation between the journalists of the two countries in such a manner that would bolster their joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and international monopolies. It also stipulates exchanging visits and expertise between the press establishments, and coordination of struggle and political stands between the two friendly associations in the service of the joint struggle of the two countries' peoples for a better future.

Syrian, Turkish Officials Conduct Talks
JN281430 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1245 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA) — 'Isam al-Na'ib, assistant foreign minister and (Tiserti Tezel), assistant Turkish foreign minister, held talks here today.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations, ways to bolster them, and the current situation in the region.

Yitzhaq Shamir Comments on Mubarak Initiative

TA281719 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Statement by Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport following his return from Europe — live]

[Text] On Wednesday morning, I learned about talks and consultations being held in Israel in connection with the steps taken by the Egyptian Government and president. I immediately contacted the prime minister and Minister Moshe Arens, who was acting foreign minister during my absence. I received a report on the events and the consultations, and both men advised me to continue my visit as planned, because the government was not about to make any decisions within the next few days. Therefore, I completed my visit — I was then in the Netherlands — and I have returned now.

During talks in the countries I visited, I was asked about my reaction to the ideas and statements that have been published and to the latest events and consultations that had taken place in Israel. On President Mubarak's ideas which were published in *THE NEW YORK TIMES* and in the Egyptian press — and which actuallyrefer to meetings between Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinians, and the United States without Israel's participation — I said that I do not regard these ideas as a contribution to peace in the region. The peace process cannot advance without holding talks with Israel. I saw the proposal as an obvious attempt to get the United States to negotiate and make official contact with the PLO, something that would harm Israel's interests and that contradicts past U.S. obligations to Israel.

In regard to other steps that are being spoken of recently — meetings, consultations, and negotiations — I can only say that Israel is interested in progressing toward peace. Israel is interested in improved relations with Egypt. On this subject, Israel must be faithful and adhere to the Camp David accords, which stipulate the way to achieve and implement peace. If Egypt wants to improve its relations with Israel, it must fulfill all its obligations as stipulated in the Camp David accords: It must return its ambassador, uphold all the agreements on normalization, and stop anti-Israeli propaganda in its media.

On moves involving contact or negotiations with Jordan and other parties, we must act based on what was agreed to at Camp David and according to the national unity government's basic guidelines. Otherwise, any deviation from the Camp David accords might adversely affect Israel's interests and worsen our situation. At the time the Camp David accords were concluded, it was agreed that Israel would be willing to meet a delegation comprising Jordanian, Egyptian, and Palestinian representatives, provided none of them is a member of the PLO. I think that if the opportunity indeed arises for negotiations to advance peace, Israel should act with vigor, composure, and in line with the accords, and should demand that others be just as faithful to the agreements they signed.

Shamir Holds Official Talks in The Hague

For reportage on the visit to the Netherlands by Foreign Affairs Minister Hans van den Broek and Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, see the Netherlands subsection of the Benelux section of the 28 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*

Prime Minister 'Objects' to PLO Inclusion in Talks

TA281617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Israel has made it plain to the United States that it will object to any move attempting to include the PLO in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Israel asked the United States to cooperate with it on this issue.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that these remarks were made by the prime minister in a meeting he held last night with the U.S. ambassador to Israel.

Egypt's Al-Baz Brings 'Amendment' to Talks Proposal

TA281102 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] Two nights ago President Mubarak's personal adviser, Usamah al-Baz, brought an amendment to the original proposal raised by President Mubarak to Jerusalem. According to the amendment, first a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will be formed, and it will leave for talks with representatives of the U.S. Administration in Washington. At a later stage, Israel will be invited to join the negotiations, to be held either in Washington or Cairo. Nonetheless, Israel will be granted the right to veto the composition of the Palestinian representation to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and the PLO will enjoy a similar right.

Al-Baz added that according to President Mubarak's proposal, Palestinian representatives who support the PLO, but are not necessarily identified with it, will be included in the delegation.

Mubarak introduced this amendment, as Israel was told, in order to appease Jordan, which fears that the United States will join the negotiations but might withdraw later if difficulties emerge. Mubarak's proposal is intended to keep the United States in the negotiations, enhance its commitment , and thus give King Husayn more breathing space. Another explanation voiced by political observers in Jerusalem was that this move is intended to please the Americans by giving them a central role in the negotiations that will be launched to solve the Palestinian problem.

Another topic discussed by Usamah al-Baz was Egypt's demand for international arbitration on the future of Tabah. An argument developed on this, in which Professor Moshe Arens, who participated in the meeting in his capacity as the acting foreign minister, presented the Likud's firm rejection of arbitration before the stage of "conciliation" has been exhausted. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, on the other hand, said that Israel would

be prepared to hold talks with Egypt at any level Egypt chooses. Peres said that Israel will be ready to discuss all outstanding matters, including Tabah, but is also prepared to limit itself to a discussion of Tabah alone — again, if Egypt so chooses. Peres is awaiting Egypt's reply to this.

At the end of a 5 and 1/2 hour nocturnal meeting with Usamah al-Baz 2 days ago, some of the participants said that the Egyptian presidential envoy came to Jerusalem to provide an almost first-hand report on the president's ideas.

They added that Al-Baz did not bring any operational plan or a timetable for action, and that it has also been learned that his proposals were not raised following contacts with either King Husayn or Yasir 'Arafat. Egypt is still waiting for their answer. In that respect, it was noted, the mission caused some disappointment, although it was also stated that Mubarak's ideas involve some elements that could be acceptable to all sides, which is why they have a positive potential that could ultimately result in negotiations.

Further Reportage on Shahal's Visit to Egypt

Meets With Mubarak

TA281048 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Feb 85 pp 1, 11

[Report by Cairo correspondent Avi Bettelheim]

[Excerpt] Following the meeting yesterday between Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, sources in Egypt estimated that a summit meeting between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres could be imminent. The energy minister held a 50-minute talk with the Egyptian president. Immediately upon his return to Israel this evening, Shahal will meet with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to report to him on the visit and particularly on the conversation with the Egyptian president. Mubarak transmitted a verbal message to Peres.

During his visit to Egypt, Minister Shahal reached an unwritten understanding about a number of joint deals in Israel and Egypt in the sphere of his ministry's jurisdiction. Among other things, an understanding was reached with the Egyptians to seek ways to promote bilateral relations while finding an adequate solution to the Tabah problem.

One of the proposals raised by Shahal was that Israel and Egypt jointly develop Tabah and turn it into a center for tourism and international trade. Only at a later stage would the parties begin negotiating the question of sovereignty.

The meeting with the Egyptian president was also attended by Egypt's petroleum and mineral wealth minister, 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil. Shahal, who conversed with Mubarak in Arabic, gave the Egyptian president an ancient ram's horn ornamented with silver handiwork. Mubarak thanked him warmly. According to Shahal, the two held a "cordial and interesting meeting."

Shahal brought President Mubarak a personal message from Shim'on Peres. Mubarak read the letter immediately upon receiving it, and said he was pleased. He praised Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, and said he was impressed by his statements and honesty. Mubarak also said he highly appreciated Israel's decision regarding a withdrawal from Lebanon, which he claimed brought about an improvement of the atmosphere and will allow for further progress and additional moves in the peace process.

The Egyptian president told his Israeli guest that he must also take into consideration opposition opinion in Egypt, which is why he is not completely at liberty to take measures pertaining to bilateral relations.

Yesterday afternoon, the energy and infrastructure minister met with Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

Both men expressed appreciation of Prime Minister Peres for his decision to withdraw from Lebanon. The foreign minister said that Israel's decision to permit the establishment of a bank in Judaea and Samaria is a good and wise step. He claimed that such a move would grant a further impetus to the peace process.

Later in the afternoon the energy and infrastructure minister met with former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil. The Israeli visitor will fly to the Ra's Badran oilfield in the Sinai peninsula tomorrow.

At the end of March, the director of the Egyptian petroleum company, Mustafa Rushdi, will visit Israel. The petroleum and mineral wealth minister, Qandil, was also invited, and promised to come soon.

Speaking to *MA'ARIV*, Minister Shahal expressed his satisfaction with the visit to Egypt and the talks with the administration leaders. "I would not use the term breakthrough to describe this visit, but I would definitely regard it as an expression of the warming of bilateral ties," he said. Shahal will return to Israel tonight.

Returns With Mubarak Message

TA010520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] This morning Minister Moshe Shahal will give Prime Minister Peres a verbal message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Shahal returned last night from Cairo, following meetings with almost all of the leaders of the Egyptian Administration, including President Mubarak. He defined his talks there as fruitful and friendly. In a press conference at the airport, Minister Shahal also said that at present a sound infrastructure has been established to further the peace process and improve relations between Israel and Egypt. He also said that Egypt favorably views Israel's actions in Judaea and Samaria, and the steps it is taking in Lebanon. On the issue of oil purchase, Shahal said that Israel sells Egypt a wide range of commodities in exchange.

Sums Up Talks

TA010738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Telephone interview with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal by Yitzhaq Ro'e and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer in the "Morning Newsreel" program — live]

[Text] **[Ro'e]** Good morning to you, Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] Good morning.

[Ro'e] You returned late last night from Egypt. We have just heard the defense minister who said that there is no breakthrough, even though he values the recent developments. However, from those who return from Egypt, Avraham Tamir and Moshe Shahal, there is a more favorable intonation, more joy and optimism. Is it correct to say so?

[Shahal] Look, I do not want to group myself with Avraham Tamir or anyone else. I was invited as an official guest of the Egyptian Government and of the Egyptian petroleum minister. I had the opportunity to meet with the top Egyptian echelon, primarilythe Egyptian president. My impression is that there is undoubtedly a positive element in the fact that the dialogue process has been renewed. Egypt is showing willingness to raise proposals, some of which can — under certain circumstances — bring about a direct meeting between us . Let me give an example: Mubarak's proposal speaks of a meeting between Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians who are to be included in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and this meeting is to be headed by the United States. President Mubarak and the top Egyptian echelon unequivocally say that they are not interested in an international conference, and this is in line with Israel's position. Egypt unequivocally says that the peace process can be implemented through direct negotiations, and it clearly defends this position.

[Schiffer] Mr Shahal, with your permission, only last night the Egyptian foreign minister issued a statement saying that Egypt is not currently calling for a conference in Cairo to be attended by Israel, but is rather seeking to hold — at this stage — a dialogue between the U.S. Administration and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Are you not therefore lending your hand to an act of deception? Can you actually tell us this morning that you heard a proposal from the Egyptian president for which we have no evidence to date?

[Shahal] Look, I indeed have to stress that Israel's stand must be independent. The Egyptian proposal includes the objective of which the Egyptian foreign minister spoke — they are interested in bringing about a dialogue between the United States, Jordan, and the Palestinians, and in some formulas the PLO has been explicitly mentioned. Our emphasis is on the fact that we represent at least 50 percent of the problem and conflict. There is therefore no point in a dialogue between the Americans, Jordanians, and Palestinians, which excludes Israel as a central party in this issue. This is inconceivable. By the way, in my talks there I made clear statements on this issue.

[Schiffer] What are you actually bringing back from Egypt?

[Shahal] Look, as I said, I had the opportunity, as the first Israeli minister in this government to be invited to Egypt, to meet with the top Egyptian echelon — with Egypt's president, the prime minister, the foreign minister, and other ministers, almost half of the Egyptian Government. I held detailed discussions with them, and we exchanged opinions.

[Schiffer] What is the message? Beyond the fact that you met with almost everyone there, what is the message you are bringing from Cairo to Jerusalem?

[Shahal] I will give the message to the prime minister.

[Schiffer] No, I am not referring to Mubarak's message; I am talking about the message you received from the Egyptian Administration.

[Shahal] Mr Schiffer, I want to clearly differentiate between two things, in order to prevent misunderstandings: What is considered a message — and what I have to say — I will deliver to the prime minister when I meet him. The second thing is my own impression: I can say that even if there are tactical considerations, and there certainly are, the fact is that Egypt is taking the initiative, and is interested in renewing the process of a peace dialogue. In my opinion, this in itself is important. I believe that this will produce results. For example, in the area under my jurisdiction, it will have real and immediate results: the improvement of relations and joint activity. As to other issues, I believe that there is currently a basis for joint action, the renewal of the dialogue, the continuation of the peace process, and the solution of problems between us and Egypt.

Exclusion of Ambassador Protested

TA281925 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1805 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem are protesting the fact that Mubarak did not invite Israel's ambassador to Egypt to participate in his meeting with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal. Foreign Ministry officials told our correspondent Victor Nahmias that Mubarak's move contradicts normal political practice, and that they see it as a continuation of the policy to boycott Moshe Sason.

Tamir Meets Egyptian Foreign, Prime Ministers

TA282121 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Avraham Tamir, met this evening with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid in Cairo. The talks lasted 1 and 1/4 hours, and afterward, Tamir told correspondents that he had heard Egypt's views. Earlier this afternoon Tamir had a meeting with Egypt's prime minister, after which he said that Mubarak's initiative was a positive breakthrough in the peace process.

Rabin on Lebanon Withdrawal, Egyptian Proposals
TA010629 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yitzhaq Ro'e and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer in the "Morning Newsreel" program — live in the studio]

[Text] **[Ro'e]** Good morning , Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Ro'e] The assessment is that the government will favorably discuss the beginning of the second phase [of the withdrawal]. Is this your assessment as well?

[Rabin] I hope so. At the time, the government made a basic decision on a new way to deal with the terrorist threat in Lebanon. The first [stage] has been completed. I hope that the government will also approve the second stage.

[Ro'e] Today marks 1,000 days of the war in Lebanon. More demonstrations can be expected than at any other time during the war, and there are also repeated calls to speed up the withdrawal. What is your reaction to this?

[Rabin] When we presented the overall plan on a 3-phase withdrawal, we took all factors into account. To date there have been no developments that demand a change in the plans we presented to the government at the time.

[Ro'e] You will insist on fulfilling this plan?

[Rabin] I will, and I hope that the government approves it.

[Ro'e] Meanwhile, we hear of what some reports term a group of ministers — particularly former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon — which expresses reservations about the withdrawal plan; if not about this stage, then about the plan as a whole.

[Rabin] I assume that there are various opinions, and this is only natural. However, the government reached a decision by a significant majority vote on a different plan than previouslyheld on how to deal with terrorism from Lebanon, including a redeployment of the IDF along the international border. I believe that those ministers who, at the time, voted in favor of this conception will continue to adhere to it.

[Ro'e] Is this all you have to say about the reservations expressed by Sharon — that there are various opinions?

[Rabin] I will certainly not start an argument at this stage, before the Cabinet discusses it.

[Ro'e] Sir, is it correct to say that we are headed toward the international border, all the way to the international border?

[Rabin] As the government's decision stated at the time — based on the defense establishment's recommendation — there will be a redeployment of the IDF along the international border, while preserving a security zone in Lebanon adjacent to the international border; this zone is to be manned by friendly Lebanese forces backed by the IDF, and I emphasize this latest aspect.

[Ro'e] In our studio is our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer.

[Schiffer] Mr Rabin, you are actually saying that there will be no change in the government's policy of phased withdrawal from Lebanon. Do you not think that events in the area with regard to the Shi'ites demand that we withdraw faster will have severe effects on future relations with them, and on the IDF soldiers who have to carry out the heavy-handed policy?

[Rabin] Look, the situation in Lebanon is not comfortable for Israel, and I am putting it mildly. There is a great variety of terrorism in Lebanon. The PLO was severely hit, but in no way was it destroyed. Today the main terrorist element vis-a-vis the IDF is the Shi'ite factor. There is no government in Lebanon in control of this territory, and I believe that due to the developments in the Arab world, Syria is interested in increasing the terror as a way of emphasizing its method for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict — through war — as opposed to the possibility of a political settlement at the initiative of Egypt, Jordan, and other factors.

[Schiffer] So what is the conclusion to be drawn from this? Should we stay, to prove to the Shi'ites and the Syrians that we will not run away?

[Rabin] This has nothing to do with running away. Because presently there is no factor willing to reach an understanding with us in Lebanon, I believe that we must deploy in such a way that justprior to completing the third phase of the withdrawal, the situation in Lebanon will be determined by the government. However, more than this, we must give all the terrorist elements — and primarily the Shi'ites, who constitute the majority of the population in southern Lebanon — the feeling that they have two choices: Either there will be calm for the two sides, or there will not be calm, and in that event those responsible for terrorism will suffer severely.

[Ro'e] Mr Defense Minister, to date, your opinion on the Mubarak initiative has not been heard.

[Rabin] I would not define what is termed the Mubarak initiative — and I wish it had been an operative initiative, because unfortunately it is still not operative — as a breakthrough. If indeed his suggestion to hold a direct meeting between Egypt, Israel, and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, not including the PLO, would have been realized, I would have seen this as a meaningful achievement. Unfortunately, Mubarak still has no partners in the Arab world, and it does not look as though he will have any tomorrow. On the other hand, to present it as a disaster seems very strange to me. I am afraid that on one hand, there is in this some kind of opening — albeit narrow — for chances in the future. [sentence as heard] Obviously, Mubarak also has tactical motives on the eve of his departure for Washington. I believe that we must clearly state that we agree to what is called the Mubarak initiative: that is, a meeting between Egypt, Israel, and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that does not include the PLO. Under no circumstances will we agree to the beginning of Arab-

U.S. talks in which Israel does not participate, and this we must stress to the Americans. Any Egyptian attempt to bring about an Egyptian, Jordanian, Palestinian, and American meeting, without Israel, will threaten the friendship and understanding that have been created between the United States and Israel.

[Schiffer] Mr Rabin you did not agree to hold a meeting with a low level Egyptian official who came here this week.

[Rabin] No, that is not accurate. The possibility was raised that a certain ministerial team would meet with him again, and I saw no need for this. The prime minister also knew of this, and therefore this is not a real issue.

[Schiffer] Perhaps we will hear a reaction from you on the issue of the bastards. Is this the way to talk about the French contingent to UNIFIL, when we are talking about such a great friend of Israel, President Mitterrand, who has special relations with the prime minister?

[Rabin] First of all, the phrase you described was not precisely the phrase I used. I was speaking in a closed forum, and I used an unparliamentary expression. I was referring to the French contingent's mode of operation, which makes the job of the IDF in preserving the calm in southern Lebanon more difficult in the area where the French soldiers are deployed. I said this in a closed forum, and I do not intend to go over it any more.

[Schiffer] Is it not true that you asked the Foreign Ministry not to apologize?

[Rabin] I told the Israeli Foreign Ministry that I had indeed used an unparliamentary expression in view of the events in southern Lebanon. I did not ask them to apologize, and I do not apologize.

David Levi Addresses Council of Settlements

Mubarak Plan Seen as 'Trap'

TA281619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has said that Mubarak's initiative is a trap and that all Mubarak wants is to be portrayed as an initiator when he arrives in the United States. According to Minister Levi, the latest contacts with Egypt are dangerous. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that Levi made these remarks in a meeting of the Council of Jewish Settlements in the territories. David Levi told his audience that the Likud would not lend its hand to fulfilling the alignment's plan for a territorial compromise.

The deputy prime minister noted that the trans-Samaria road would be completed this year and reach the Jordan River and that 1,400 housing units and 3 new urban settlements would be established in the territories this year. According to him, there will also be some changes in Hebron.

Husayn, 'Arafat Unity 'Dangerous'

TA281511 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1448 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has called the slogan "Territories in Return for Peace," dangerous. When there is coordination between Husayn and 'Arafat, the danger is clear, David Levi said, and anyone who is tempted to become involved in this plot will find himself confronting increasingly heavy international pressure. David Levi said this to our correspondent Gil Ronen at the Elqana settlement in Samaria, where Minister Levi is now delivering a speech to the plenum of the Council of Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District.

Former Gaza Mayor Offers To Join Peace Delegation

TA010951 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0926 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa says that if he is asked to participate in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the conference suggested by President Mubarak, he would not refuse, but only on condition that his participation — and that of all the other Palestinian members in the joint delegation with Jordan — is approved by Jordan and the PLO.

In an interview with our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a, Rashad al-Shawwa says that contrary to the remarks made by Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], he does not see any contradiction between the conference suggested by President Mubarak and the PLO's demand for an international conference. Al-Shawwa also says that he does not believe the Mubarak initiative is a continuation of Camp David. He believes that the initiative is a step in the right direction, and that it expresses a positive attitude and sincere desire to reach a just solution guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinians and ending the conflict in our region.

Settlers Ask Likud To Quit if PLO Party to Talks

TA010642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea and Samaria is calling on the Likud to leave the coalition in the event that there will be negotiations with the participation of the PLO. The council also said that it will organize mass resistance — albeit nonviolent — against any plan to return parts of Judaea and Samaria.

FRG's Strauss Says No Arms Deal With Saudi Arabia

TA010537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Bavarian Premier Franz-Josef Strauss says West Germany has no arms agreement with Saudi Arabia, and not even a draft of an agreement. At a news conference in Tel Aviv, Strauss declared that too much is being made of the matter. He was critical of Israelis for attacking Germany over the matter of selling arms to the Saudis when, as Strauss noted, Israel's best friends sell weapons worth billions of dollars to Saudi Arabia.

Establishment of New Arab Peace Movement Announced

TA281106 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 85 p 3

[Report by the parliamentary correspondent]

[Text] Alignment Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah yesterday announced the establishment of an Arab peace movement in Israel.

MK Darawshah explained that Israel's Arabs are citizens of the state, but they are also part of the Palestinian people. As such, they can serve as a bridge to peace.

The founding council will be convened before the end of March. Darawshah proposed a council of 42 members: 13 from the Alignment, 14 from HADASH, 8 from the Progressive List for Peace, 3 from Yahad, 2 from Shinuy, 1 from The Citizens Rights Movement, and 1 from the National Religious Party.

Palestinian Terrorists Infiltrate Into S. Lebanon

TA281038 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 85 p 1

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Text] A number of Palestinian terrorists have recently succeeded in infiltrating the area under IDF control. Since the withdrawal of the IDF and the opening of the Al-Awwali bridge to traffic from the north, hundreds of armed Palestinians have arrived and entered Sidon to link up with the various organizations operating in the town. The Shi'ites who were expelled by the IDF last week have also succeeded in infiltrating across the lines and back to their villages.

Basic Commodity Prices Rise By 7 Percent

TA010542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Prices of many commodities went up an average of 7 percent at midnight. This does not include subsidized goods; their prices were raised several days ago. Most items went up by 5 percent, according to the terms of the second package deal. The committee supervising the implementation of the arrangement approved higher increases for some products: between 6 and 26 percent. The highest increase went to powdered cocoa, which has recently disappeared from store shelves as producers claimed they were losing money on it. Instant coffee went up 17 percent, sugar 15 percent, and cigarettes 10.5 percent. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry estimates the increase will add 5 percent to the monthly cost-of-living index.

The industrialists say there are some distortions in the price list, which went into effect last night. They say Commerce and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon has promised to meet them in the next few days to discuss the matter.

Zionist Organization Lacks Funds for New Settlements

TA010926 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Mar 85 p 2

[Report by Judy Siegel]

[Text] The Labour Party co-chairman of the World Zionist Organization's [WZO] settlement department, Nisim Zvili, said yesterday that it has no money for the establishment of new settlements beyond the green line.

Zvili said in a press release that the $30 million recently allocated by the Treasury for the department means a freeze in all existing settlements and the inability to develop the 159 existing moshavim in the administered territories for which the department is responsible.

"Since this freeze already endangers the existence of small and fragile settlements, it is obvious that we have no intention of diverting some of our shrunken budget to establishing new settlements," Zvili said.

He added that the government decides on new settlements and the WZO implements the decision. If the government does decide to build more settlements over the green line, Zvili said, it must add to the budget.

As for the $2 million that appears in the state budget under the listing "establishing settlements," Zvili said that amount of money can be used only in the second half of the 1985 fiscal year.

The Herut co-chairman of the department, Matityahu Drobles, told *THE JERUSALEM POST* last night that he agrees that additional settlements could not be established from the $30 million operating budget. But he was optimistic that the government would find the $4 million needed to build the four rural settlements in the territories that it recently decided to establish.

"No problem; we'll get the money," Drobles said optimistically.

Reportage on 41st OAU Ministerial Session

Chad Peacekeeping Duties Refund

AB281200 Lagos NAN in English 1140 GMT 28 Feb 85

[By James Bello]

[Text] Addis Ababa, Feb. 28 (NAN) — Libya is seeking a refund of 900 million U.S. dollars (about 775 million naira) from the OAU for what it called total expenses incurred on Libyan troops sent to Chad for peace-keeping purposes. In a note sent to the OAU Secretariat through its embassy in Addis Ababa on Jan. 28, Libya listed 17 items in which it claimed that the amount was expended. The Libyan demand is among the numerous papers distributed to the OAU foreign ministers for consideration at their current meeting in the Ethiopian capital.

Libya had dispatched troops to Ndjamena in 1981 to help former President Goukouni Oueddei at the height of the Chadian civil war. Following persistent demands for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Chad by the OAU, Libyan forces returned to Tripoli by mid-November 1981. An OAU peace-keeping force, contributed by Nigeria, Senegal and Zaire, was then sent to Chad to maintain peace and security in the country.

Meanwhile, five countries whose troops participated in the peace-keeping operations in Chad have renewed their request to the foreign ministers for the refund of the expenses they incurred during the period. The countries are Congo, claiming 165.8 million (about N142.9 million), Kenya, 44.87 million dollars (about N38.6 million), Nigeria, 82.9 million dollars (about N71.04 million), Senegal, 2.36 million dollars (about N2.03 million) and Zaire, 9.45 million dollars (about N8.14 million). Conference sources say that Kenya has, however, deducted its expenses from its assessed annual contribution to the OAU. Last year these countries made the same request for a refund to the Council of Ministers, who then differed the issue to the last OAU summit, but it never came up for consideration by the heads of state and government.

The east Africa correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) quotes conference sources as saying that the issue, including that of Libya, had again been put forward for discussion at the next OAU summit. In an interview with NAN in Addis Ababa yesterday, the external affairs minister, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, explained that Nigeria was not pressing the OAU for immediate refund but wanted the organisation to accept that it owed Nigeria the said amount. "We intend to keep the issue alive until the OAU accepts that we incurred these expenses on its behalf for peace-keeping operations in Chad," he told NAN. Dr Gambari is leading the Nigerian delegation to the Addis Ababa foreign ministerial council meeting.

Liberation, Refugees Discussed

EA281222 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0400 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The 41st OAU ministerial session yesterday adopted two resolutions aimed at strengthening the liberation struggle in southern Africa and establishing a plan of action. A spokesman for the meeting said last night that the resolutions were adopted after the meeting assessed the report of the 13th [as heard] meeting of the organization's Liberation Committee which met in Accra in January. After assessing the situation in southern Africa and the oppression being perpetrated on countries bordering the racist regime, the meeting called on the international community to give diplomatic, financial, material, and humanitarian assistance to the liberation struggle being waged in this part of the continent and to countries bordering the racist regime.

The spokesman added that the session reiterated the need for the UN Security Council to convene an emergency meeting to examine the issue of Namibian independence. The spokesman went on to say that the organization's Liberation Committee called on member-states to pay their outstanding contributions to the Liberation Committee, which amount to $14 million.

The spokesman pointed out that the meeting's Political Committee, based on the report of the organization's interim secretary general, discussed at length the major causes of the refugee problems on the continent. He added that this problem, known on the continent for the last 10 years, has been aggravated not only by the rise in the number of refugees, but also because countries that host the refugees are the poorest in the world.

The committee also discuseed the outcome of the issue of assistance to African refugees which was raised at the ICARA II [second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa] meeting in Geneva last year. In the understanding that the meeting pledged $100 million for countries with refugee problems, the committee urged the OAU office to follow up on the implementation of the matter.

The spokesman further said that the Cultural, Scientific, and Educational Affairs committee adopted two draft resolutions [as heard] following lengthy discussions. According to the draft resolution, the OAU and the International African Livestock Development Center will sign a mutually beneficial agreement on livestock development and related sectors aimed at enabling the two organizations to exchange documents and information.

Economics, Cooperation Examined

EA282215 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The OAU Council of Ministers held its fourth meeting today in camera. The council focused on the economic problems facing the continent and cooperation between African and Arab countries.

It was disclosed that lengthy discussion was held on Afro-Arab cooperation and it was decided that the situation was favourable for holding an Afro-Arab joint ministerial council meeting next April, to be followed by the second Afro-Arab countries heads of state meeting.

During the afternoon meeting, the session focused on economic issues, and it was disclosed that it will continue discussing the same issues tomorrow.

ALGERIA

President on 'Unannounced' Contacts With Morocco

LD281638 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Speech by President Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general, at conclusion of third national seminar on development; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] Some newspapers here and there comment on political issues concerning our region and other regions. I want, briefly, to explain to you some of these issues. The press speaks about a Maghreb summit conference and about meetings with countries neighboring Algeria.

As regards unannounced meetings, there were contacts between Algeria and Morocco, and there was an exchange of views on the Sahara problem. We believe in dialogue no matter how great the problem. We believe in dialogue and therefore left the channels open for dialogue, because through dialogue we can solve problems, no matter how big they are. We believe in dialogue because we believe in a common fate and we believe in the future. We love, not hate, when it is a matter of two peoples destined to live together irrespective of the problems.

What should be clear is that if we believe in dialogue it is not because of weakness or that this means that we have problems. Our financial situation is healthy. So is our economic situation. Our social situation is good, as is our security situation. [applause]

We believe in a common fate and in the edification of a unified Arab Maghreb, within the framework of respecting the laws and institutions of each country, despite the fact that the organization of each state is different. We have more in common than we have differences. There is much that we share: spiritual, cultural, social, linguistic, and our common future. All these are open aspects of our lives which present no problems. When we solve the current problems it is very possible that these things will be important and we believe in this.

Thus, as regards the holding of an Arab Maghreb summit, we made the first initiative in 1983. Algeria does not believe in the policy of axes but in building a unified Arab Maghreb within a framework of clarity and respect for each country's internal choices. Algeria rejects the exportation of ideology and dogmas. Algeria also rejects interference in the internal affairs of others. Thus we believe in the principle of dialogue, to meet and talk about present problems, especially the Sahara problem. [applause] Thus, if the brothers want unity, we are ready. But the final word belongs to the Algerian people.

We said, by way of clarification: Yes, we will attend the summit provided the Saharans attend. [applause] But we shall not accept, we shall not make a commitment to such a meeting while there is still a Saharan problem. [applause] Within the framework of bilateral cooperation, we are ready to cooperate.

Today we see that we have taken significant steps with Tunisia, once we provided the basic condition, trust. The same happened with Mauritania, with our neighbors, brothers and friends in the south. And thanks to this atmosphere and trust we even solved some border problems, a serious issue from which we suffered even before independence. This is our view of the Arab Maghreb and its edification and of solving the present problems and Algeria's readiness to build the Arab Maghreb within the framework of clarity. But we are not ready to follow the policy of fleeing from the issues in the arena. There will not be an Arab Maghreb without the participation of the Saharans. [applause]

As for the Arab world and its problems Algeria's attitude is firm. Algeria does not believe in the policy of buffoonery and oneupmanship. In the Arab nation as you well know, there are differences, conflicts, even serious conflicts. I do not believe that there is an Arab country which has no problems with another country, whether a neighbor or not. We tried and will continue to try to bring the Palestinian brothers together and to resolve differences between the Palestinian and the Syrian brothers. We always say that we believe in the freedom of the Palestinian decision where internal matters are concerned. No Arab country, including Algeria, has the right to dictate to the Palestinians or to interfere in their internal affairs.

LIBYA

PDRY Leader Arrives 28 Feb, Makes Statement

LD281827 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Feb (JANA) — The Secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the PDRY, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad arrived in Tripoli this afternoon at the head of a delegation on a 4-day visit to Libya.

He was welcomed on arrival by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Commander in Chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir. He was also welcomed by a number of secretaries from the General People's Congress and heads of the political missions accredited to the Jamahiriyah.

Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad made a statement to JANA in which he stressed that his visit to the Jamahiriyah is to assert the fraternal relations between the two countries. He explained that his talks in the Jamahiriyah will deal with the question of coordination and cooperation and the means to escalate the struggle of the various detachments of the Arab liberation movement, particularly since the Arab region is now witnessing an imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught aimed at liquidating the just cause of the Palestinian Arab people, at pouncing on progressive Arab regimes, and at liquidating the gains achieved by the Arab masses in their struggle. Also [words indistinct] attempts of implementing the conspiratorial and capitulatory plans, particularly the Reagan plan.

Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad condemned the Husayn-'Arafat agreement and said that this agreement constitutes a serious threat to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Furthermore, it contributes to causing a further split in the Palestine national file.

The Yemeni chairman lauded the successes achieved by the Lebanese progressive patriotic forces, particularly their successes in compelling the Zionist forces of occupation to withdraw from occupied southern lebanon, and their determination to continue the struggle until all Lebanese territories are liberated from Israeli occupation.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad is being accompanied by a large delegation which includes Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the Political Bureau and minister of defense; Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau and Central Committee secretary; 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier and minister of fish resources; Nasir Nasir 'Ali, member of the Central Committee and minister of labor and civil service; Muhammad al-Najashi, member of the Central Committee, deputy Central Committee secretary; and 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal, candidate member of the Central Committee and minister of energy and minerals.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD010208 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Brother leader of the revolution received yesterday [28 Feb] President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the general secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council in the PDRY.

President 'Ali Nasir Mohammad has visited the father of the leader of the revolution whose treatment is being supervised by a group of Arab Libyan doctors.

Palestinian Delegation Arrives in Tripoli 28 Feb

LD010757 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] A Palestinian delegation consisting of Brothers Khalid al-Fahum, the PNC Chairman; Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the PFLP-General Command; Abu Musa, [Sa'id Musa Muragha] the secretary of the new Fatah Revolutionary Movement; Muhammad Khalifah, the secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; 'Umar Harb, the secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union; and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, the official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Tripoli last night.

Morocco Delegation Attends People's Congress

LD281554 Tripoli JANA in English 1431 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 8, February 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Moroccan parliamentary delegation attended early today the morning session of the General People's Congress.

The secretary of the General People's Congress welcomed the Moroccan delegation confirming that presence is a reaffirmation of solidarity between the Arab people in Libya and Morocco and a consolidation of [words indistinct] union.

It is worth mentioning that the Moroccan delegation arrived in Tripoli last night to attend meetings of the General People's Congress in its 10th ordinary session.

Mr Mohamed Ziyani, the chairman of the Moroccan parliament's legislation committee had made a statement to reporters before leaving Casablanca in which he said the visit to Jamahiriyah by the Moroccan parliamentary delegation is in the context of consolidating unionist and brotherhood relations embodied in the Oujda historical treaty. This visit, he added, is a new opportunity to consolidate relations between Arab people in Libya and Morocco within the context of the Arab-African Union which has imposed itself on the international level and had been the fruit of persevering work by the leader of the revolution and King Hassan II.

JANA Calls for Liquidation of Sudanese Regime

LD281922 Tripoli JANA in English 1758 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Jumada Thani, 28 Feb, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Assistant of U.S. defense minister, William Howard Taft made revelation of conspiracies against Libya in collaboration with hireling Numayri, as he blatantly admitted that he discussed such designs when he met with hireling Numayri in Khartoum two days ago.

In his announcement to REUTER, Taft said that over some years they had been concerned about what he called threats to Sudan's security from Libya and that their assistance is called for to counter such threats.

Responding to these hostile statements, JANA political correspondent wrote the following: "We would like first to ask a question: On what grounds is America turning the Arabs one against the other? Make no mistake about it, it is because of the clique of agents who gave America the chance to intervene in the Arabs' internal affairs. Therefore, hireling Numayri's regime which is already dying due to overwhelming difficulties, has to be liquidated.

On the other hand, why should hireling Numayri conspire with America against Libya? We can not find any reason, unless it is a desire to cover the bodies of those who died from hunger and repression. In sum, the liquidation of this agent conspiratorial regime is highly essential.

As for America, we advise her to mind her own business and leave the Arabs alone. However, our reply to this American plotting is to work towards the establishment of a state for the red Indians and a state for the blacks, we will carry on the support to the oppressed until they realize their aspirations in a state, one for the red Indians and one for the blacks. In reality, this is the right response to America's arrogance, intervention and plotting.

SUDAN

Numayri Addresses Northern Agricultural Conference

JN011106 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Wad Numayri, Jumada Thani 9/Mar 1 (SUNA) — President Numayri has described the Northern Region as the best place for small-scale agricultural investments and local industries that depend on agricultural products. He said large-scale investments should be undertaken by the public sector and called for diversification of agricultural production in the region.

In a speech before the Northern Province agricultural development conference, Numayri called for utilizing Wadi Muqaddam for pastures. He said education in the region should serve local industries.

The president, who was commenting on a paper on investment impediments in the region presented by the regional finance and economic planning minister, also called for setting up small-scale medical units in the region instead of large hospitals.

The manager of the Sudanese Agricultural Bank presented a paper on agricultural loans in the region in which he cited the services rendered by the bank to farmers. Commenting on the paper, the president said the bank should provide farmers with small tractors and should boost horticulture and crop production in the region.

The president on Wednesday opened and toured an exhibition of studies held in honor of the conference.

The commissioner of Aswan, Upper Egypt, Qadri 'Uthman, who is attending the conference, said the conference was a good chance for the exchange of ideas on the development of the Egyptian and Sudanese provinces. The conference went into discussion of the papers in the form of committees.

Meanwhile, Irrigation Minister Saghirun al-Zayn Saghirun told SUNA the Northern Region enjoys permanent water resources beside the natural waterfalls on the Nile course which could facilitate storage, irrigation and electricity generation. He said the proposed Hamdab Dam would help irrigate 11,000 feddans and generate 750 megawatts of electric power. He said it would also limit the prospects of flooding and curb bank erosion.

Egyptian Ambassador to Sudan Husayn Mashrafah said the conference on comprehensive development in the region would offer an opportunity for the assessment of problems and potentialities of development. He said it would also help in furthering cooperation between the region and Egypt.

SPLA Radio: Five Government Soldiers Killed in Ambush

EA281817 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Five government soldiers were killed and nine others wounded when Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] commandos carried out a successful ambush at (Wich Nyang), half a mile from Akobo garrison. The ambush that was masterminded by Lt (Abraham Machar) left one SPLA commando slightly injured.

TUNISIA

Labor Federation Protests Government Actions

PM271433 Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Feb 85 p 6

["M.D." dispatch: "Acute Tension Between Government and the Tunisian General Federation of Labor"]

[Text] Tunis — Things are going badly again between the Tunisian General Federation of Labor [UGTT] and the government, so much so that the trade union's administrative commission has just recommended submitting a complaint against the Tunisian Government to the ILO in Geneva "for violation of the labor laws and failure to respect international conventions."

In its communique issued Monday 25 February, the administrative commission protested in particular "the undermining of the UGTT and trade union work by the giving of material and moral backing to dissidents (a reference to the UNTT [Tunisian National Federation of Labor] created 1 year ago following a split in the UGTT leadership), the banning of trade union meetings in places of work, trials, the promulgation of laws without consulting the workers' representatives, the use of requisitioning, and so forth."

In addition the trade unionists describe as "machinations" the formula put forward by the government during the negotiations which went on until recently, a formula consisting of indexing wages according to production and productivity.

The communique pointed out that "the objective definition of production and productivity criteria will require many years, in addition to the fact that they are only one of the factors which should be used in fixing wages."

The administrative commission rejects this formula and reaffirms its commitment to increasing wages in accordance with the increase in the cost of living during 1983 and 1984. It supports in advance "the struggles which the workers will wage with a view to obtaining satisfaction of their legitimate demands," and has decided to increase trade union meetings at different levels before the federation's national council is convened in early April.

WESTERN SAHARA

Responsibility for Downing of FRG Plane Disavowed

LD011301 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] The SDAR has rejected any responsibility for the West German aircraft shot down on 24 February by the Saharan Liberation Army's anti-aircraft defenses.

The Dornier 228 aircraft was violating SDAR airspace, according to an SDAR Information Ministry communique, despite several warnings to the international community against any violation, even accidental, of the Saharan Republic's territorial sovereignty.

The communique makes clear that [words indistinct] under Moroccan occupation are combat areas, the Saharan people are fighting to recover its legitimate rights of self-determination and independence.

ETHIOPIA

Government 'Clarification' on Contribution Decree

EA282323 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] A clarification has been issued concerning the recently proclaimed Assistance and Rehabilitation Special Contribution Decree, issued to implement the programs formulated by the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] and the revolutionary government to contain the drought problem in our country, to systemize the relief activities of the broad masses, to collect the contributions in a centralized manner, and to use them for the planned goal.

The clarifications to the decree's objectives were made by Comrades Gebrewold Lema, head of the office of the national committee for the further implementation of the assistance and rehabilitation special contribution decree; Shiferaw Wolde Mikael, head of the law department in the office of the chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Bikale Mesfen, deputy head of the administration of internal revenue.

The comrades dealt with the huge rehabilitation and lifesaving work carried out in the past years and said that the proclamation of the decree was found necessary to collect contributions from the people in a centralized manner, carry out a planned resettlement program, and make efforts to alleviate our compatriots in a coordinated way. Accordingly, the Assistance and Rehabilitation Special Contribution Decree is applicable to Ethiopian citizens and foreign citizens who own commercial organizations in Ethiopia.

The comrades pointed out that, as stated in the decree, salaried workers, pensioners, and members organized in nonagricultural producers cooperatives will pay the contribution in a period of 12 months, while lottery winners and individuals receiving dividends from shares will pay the special contribution as soon as they receive their payment.

The comrades said that public companies, other commercial organizations, and individual businessmen will pay the special contribution before 7 May 1985 and the second payment before 7 November 1985. Farmers will pay the special contribution for the first half period before 7 May 1985, while the second payment will be due before 6 May 1986. [dates as heard].

The assistance and rehabilitation special contribution will be calculated on regular salaries, overtime pay, and bonus earnings.

The comrades added that any Ethiopian whose total earning is over 50 birr will pay the special contribution. The comrades said that as the Ethiopian law does not require employers to deduct from the salaries of Ethiopian working in international organizations, those Ethiopians should deposit the required special contribution in commercial bank branches designated by the National Bank of Ethiopia as soon as they receive their salaries.

The comrades pointed out that the amount of special contribution that each public company or commercial association should pay will be based on the annual service income assessed by the Internal Revenue Department in 1983-84 and added that, accordingly, in this case total earnings do not have any relation with profits or losses but is simply the total earnings.

In conclusion, the comrades said that relying totally on foreign aid in the effort to rehabilitate our drought-affected compatriots will not bring lasting solutions and, hence, the government, public organizations, and individuals have a great responsibility in the efforts to implement the Assistance and Rehabilitation Special Contribution Decree.

WPE, PDRY Party Sign Cooperation Agreement

EA281359 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The Workers' Party of Ethiopia [WPE] and the Communist Party [as heard] of the PDRY have signed an agreement that will enable the comprehensive relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries governments and peoples to be put on a higher plane. The agreement, which was signed in Aden last week, is aimed at cooperation between the parties of the two countries in the exchange of experience and related issues [as heard], and will strenthen the relations formed by the governments and various public organizations of the two countries.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the WPE by a delegation led by Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, WPE Central Committee member and secretary. During its stay in the PDRY, the delegation presented a message from our comrade revolutionary leader to Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee of the PDRY Communist Party and leader of the country.

[Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic at 0930 GMT on 28 February reports the return of Ashagre Yigletu to Addis Ababa on 28 February]

WPE, Bulgarian CP Officials Lay Dam Foundation Stone

EA011022 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Oromo 1600 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade Adis Tedla and a Bulgarian delegation currently visiting Ethiopia yesterday laid the foundation stone of a dam construction project to expand irrigation work in Yerer na Kereyu Province. Comrade Adis Tedla, Workers' Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee Politburo member, vice chairman of the National Planning Committee, and chairman of the Ethiopian-Bulgarian Joint Commission, and Comrade Pencho Kubadinski, BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] Central Committee Politburo member, chairman of Fatherland Front, and chairman of Ethiopian-Bulgarian Joint Commission, who were at Melka Awara horticultural farm to lay the foundation stone, also toured the farm.

According to an agreement between the two countries, 31 million birr will be used to develop the project within the next 3 years.

WSLF Statement Attacks BBC, British Government

EA282223 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] A statement released today by the Information Bureau of the Western Somali Liberation Front, WSLF, categorically refutes the story broadcast by the BBC on 22 February which said that the WSLF has ceased the liberation struggle against the Abyssinian administration during the prolonged drought in Western Somali territory.

The WSLF statement said that the BBC's story is a baseless lie. The statement added that it is customary for the BBC to distort and create nonexistant stories whenever commenting on the legitimate struggle of the general public of Western Somalia. The BBC reporters and administration often misreport and lie against the Front while implementing the sole purpose for which the BBC was formed, which is to serve colonial interests and at the same time conceal the crimes committed by the colonialists against those colonized.

The statement added that the British Government is solely responsible for all the colonial activities in the area by which the successive Abyssinian administrations have massacred innocent and defenseless people for more than a century. The British Government made it easy for the Abyssinian colonizers to capture and forcefully occupy Western Somali territory.

The WSLF statement says to the colonizers and their mass media organs that the legitimate struggle of the WSLF for their right to freedom and self-determination will continue until the last inch of Western Somali territory has been liberated.

KENYA

Romanian Delegation Holds Talks on Trade, Technology

EA282224 Nairobi KNA in English 1445 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Nairobi 28th Feb — An assistant minister for commerce and industry Mr Wilberforce Kisiero today held discussions with the visiting Romanian delegation in his office. The talks centred on bilateral relations, trade and agricultural technology.

The leader of the Romanian delegation, who is also the minister of state in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation, Mr Gheorghe Cazan, said Romania was interested in improving its trade relations with Kenya. He noted that a few companies in his country have some trade contacts in Kenya.

Mr Kisiero pointed out that Kenya was particularly interested in Romania's irrigation technology. He assured the Romanian minister that his ministry will discuss the possibility of importing some of the agricultural technology.

SOMALIA

Samantar Receives Romanian's Ion Ceausescu

EA282222 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] first vice-president and defense minister, Challe Lieutenant General Mohamed Ali Samantar, today in his office received visiting Romanian Minister of Planning [title as heard] Ion Ceausescu and his delegation.

Challe Samantar and Ion Ceausescu discussed bilateral matters and means of strengthening relations of cooperation between the SDR and the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Mogadishu Criticizes Soviet Media's 'Concocted Lies'

EA282025 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Abdurahman Fidow Abdi Commentary: "Radio Moscow Is Known for Speculations and Cheap Propaganda"]

[Text] The government in Moscow is a superpower with responsibilities and objectives for maintaining international peace, adherence to international principles, and respecting sovereignty of states. However, its personal interests, including the widening of its strategy in Third World countries, has made it disregard and ignore its responsibilities and obligations. In order to implement its strategy and policy, the Moscow government has applied every possible means, including military might, to suppress developing countries, open and indirect interference such as the use of baseless propaganda aimed at discrediting its foes and concocted lies. The Soviet Union has made a habit of broadcasting fabricated news items and propaganda whose aim is to stir up confusion.

An example of the Soviet target of aggravating tension and instability is the Somalia Democratic Republic [SDR], which is an independent country and has the right to pursue its own political, economic, and social objectives despite continuous and traumatic provocation from Moscow. From 1977, after the SDR abrogated political relations between the SDR and the Soviet Union, Radio Moscow, particularly its Somali section, started to spread baseless, made-up lies against the SDR.

Therefore, if we may ask each other, what has forced the Soviet mass media organs to to habitually spread baseless lies and false allegation against the SDR? A brief answer to this question is that every time the Soviet Union fails to implement its neocolonialistic policies in a country like the SDR, it turns to spread false propaganda about the internal matters of that country and at times attempts to forcefully occupy that country's territory.

An example of the countries that the Soviet Union forcefully occupied and interfered with in their day-to-day administration includes Afghanistan, the continued interference in the countries of the Horn of Africa, Central America, Cambodia, and many others.

The latest baseless propaganda of the Soviet Union against the SDR was a concocted commentary aired by Radio Moscow's Somali section on 27 February which distorted the recent visit to Somalia by the U.S. deputy secretary of defense, Mr William Howard Taft.

In the first place, does it mean that the Soviet Union is unaware that friendly visits by state representatives is a bilateral matter between those concerned who have the sovereign right to do so without the interference of a third party? Therefore, the recent visit to Somalia by the U.S. deputy secretary of defense, Mr William Howard Taft, was one of those bilateral visits between the SDR and the United States which aims at strengthening cooperation and friendly ties between the two countries. If we are to look at these concocted Soviet lies from the other side, their objective and purpose is for the Soviet authorities to conceal their land, air, and naval facilities in Abyssinia and other countries in the Indian Ocean region.

It would be appropriate for the Soviet Union to work for normalization and bringing closer the two peoples and work for harmonizing relations between the SDR and USSR as has been called for in the recent third congress of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party Central Committee instead of spreading baseless lies and propaganda, which is not in the interests of the two nations.

At the same time, it would also be appropriate for Moscow to desist from its policies of disrupting the peace and stability of the world at large and at the same time creating a rift among the peoples of the world.

If the Moscow government continues to pursue the policy of trying to widen the gap between friendly peoples of the world instead of working for their cooperation and for friendly ties, it will be failing in its international role and responsibility to the peoples of the world.

Similarly, it is imperative for the Soviet Government to realize that the cheap, baseless, and concocted lies spread against the SDR will not in anyway, however small, change the SDR's internal policies and its external relations with the peoples of the world and international organizations like the United Nations, the OAU, and the nonaligned nations.

Halgan: Government Troops Burn 2 Villages

EA282322 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Reports from Balidid and (Codileh) villages in the Togdher region say that loyalist troops of the Mogadishu clique burned down the dwellings of over 40 families and destroyed all man-made water holes, which store water for people and their livestock.

The reports add that the nation-wrecking troops of Siad Barre took a large number of the livestock. The reports confirm that one family alone lost over 200 camels. The reports further say that over 30 herdsmen have been abducted and their whereabout is still unknown.

TANZANIA

Nyerere Receives Algerian Foreign Minister, Message

EA281347 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The chariman of the OAU, Mwalimu Nyerere, has received a special message from President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria. The message was delivered by the Algerian foreign minister, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, when he met the president at his Msasani residence in Dar es Salaam, yesterday. Later the Algerian foreign minister briefed the OAU chairman on several matters of common interest. He arrived in a special plane from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he was attending the OAU foreign ministers annual conference. Algeria and Tanzania continue their close consultations on issues pertaining to the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, and South-South cooperation.

BENIN

Youth Group Meets With Soviet Delegation

AB271240 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] A working session took place at the Entente Council headquarters in Cotonou yesterday between a delegation of the National Executive Bureau of the Beninese Revolutionary Youth Organization and a delegation of the Preparatory Committee for the 12th World Youth Festival, which will take place in Moscow in July and August 1985. After the working session, the head of the organizing section of the Preparatory Committee talked about the purpose of their visit:

[Begin recording][Soviet leader] The primary purpose of our visit to Benin is to find out how the Beninese youth are preparing for the World Youth Festival to be held in Moscow. The second purpose of our visit is also to see how the hard-working Beninese people are carrying out the national construction works.

[Unidentified reporter] Would you assess for us how things are going from an organizational point of view for the 12th World Youth Festival?

[Soviet leader] First, I want to stress that preparations for the 12th World Youth Festival are being made under very difficult conditions. The decision to organize the 12th festival was made in 1984. The preparations are taking place under very difficult conditions, let us say under very difficult international conditions. Of course, although the peoples of the various countries in the world speak different languages, they need dialogue, that is the peoples of America, of Africa, of Europe, and so on. They need dialogue for peace.

As for the Soviet Union, it is ready to discuss issues relating to peace and to develop international relations with other countries. In his electoral address, Soviet leader Constantin Chernenko said that the Soviet Union is ready for peace and is also ready for talks that will lead to a solid and lasting peace. The Soviet Union has only one aim, which is to ensure security in the world. Anyone who tries to hamper our efforts for peace will not succeed in this undertaking. The Soviet Union has many friends throughout the world, and, as Constantin Chernenko has said, one of them is the People's Republic of Benin, which supports the Soviet Union in its struggle for peace. He has also said that efforts being made by certain countries to bring about the failure of our struggle for peace will fail. [end recording]

BURKINA

Prefects Dismissed; Diallo Suspension Lifted

AB281005 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held a meeting yesterday presided over by Comrade Boukari Jean-Baptiste Lingani, minister of national defense and veterans' affairs, who was acting on behalf of the president of the Faso.

The council agreed to the requisitioning of vehicles, the hiring of 100 bricklayers, 20 carpenters, mechanics, and worksite supervisors for the accelerated reconstruction of the town of Gorom-Gorom.

Termination of duties. The following comrades have been relieved of their duties: Salambere Touka Adama, prefect of Zano, Bougouriba Province; Alphonse Tientarboum, prefect of Dingue, (Boulkiendi) Province; Zouamba Manenyetse Ousmane, prefect of Bousa, Kossi Province; Desire Yameogo, prefect of (Tsilabar), Koti Province; Sawadogo Somnea Amadou, prefect of Gounguen, (Ouritenga) Province; Raymond Malgoubri Siladjo, prefect of Dabdelgo, (Ouritenga) Province; Nikiema Djidas, prefect of Niou, (Niousenga) Province; Andre-Pascal Kabore, prefect of Arpole, Passore Province; Ahmadi Sawadogo, prefect of Teysenda, Seno Province; Thomas Sawadogo, prefect of Barakounde, (?Soun) Province; Julien Dondasse, prefect of Nahousoukou, (?Soun) Province.

End of suspension. The suspension sanction against Comrade Arba Diallo [former minister of foreign affairs] has been lifted.

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

President Pereira To Visit Togo 4-7 March

AB281907 Paris AFP in French 1819 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Praia, 28 Feb (AFP) — Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira will pay an "official and friendly" visit to Togo from 4 to 7 March, official sources have announced in Praia. It will be the Cape Verdian head of state's first visit to that country. According to a draft agenda, Mr Pereira will hold talks with his Togolese counterpart, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, on bilateral cooperation and African problems.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Liberia's Doe Arrives for Visit 28 Feb

AB281743 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the Interim National Assembly, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, and his 15-man delegation have arrived in Guinea-Bissau at the start of a 2-day official working visit.

IVORY COAST

University Workers Strike; Party Issues Warning

AB281125 Lagos NAN in English 1110 GMT 28 Feb 85

[By Samuel Ajibola]

[Text] Abidjan, Fb. 27 (NAN) — Junior workers in Ivory Coast's national university have embarked on a strike for improved working conditions, campus sources told west Africa correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Abidjan

today. The strike, according to the sources, (?began) on Friday and was likely to be joined by junior workers of government-owned companies.

The striking workers included drivers, gardeners and messengers who were protesting against the harmonisation of salaries paid to workers in government ministries and government-owned companies and other establishments with similar status. The university workers, who like other university staff were treated like employees of parastatals, suffered a 25 per cent pay cut following the harmonisation of their salaries with those of their counterparts in the civil service.

A senior lecturer at the university told NAN that the institution's senior staff, who embarked on a similar strike action in 1983, had decided not to join the junior workers "for strategic reasons."

Officials at the national university in Abidjan confirmed that the strike was on but refused to make further comments, saying that they could not talk to the foreign press, especially when the local media had not reported the strike.

Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny yesterday summoned a meeting of the Political Bureau of the ruling Parti Democratique de la Cote d'Ivoire, which after a three-hour meeting attended by cabinet ministers issued a stern warning to "certain workers with negative attitudes." A communique issued at the end of the meeting made no mention of or reference to the strike but it warned that defiant workers exposed themselves to "serious sanctions because no laxity can be tolerated [passage indistinct]. The communique said that the party and the government had no intention of reversing the salary harmonisation policy, prescribed by the IMF as a measure to speed up the country's economic recovery. Executives and other senior officials of parastatals lost up to 40 percent of their pay packet when the government began to implement the policy last year.

The communique reaffirmed the party's and the government's faith in dialogue and summoned senior officials of parastatals, their workers' unions and the Ivorian Labour Congress to a meeting on Friday, with a view to resolving "serious problems," upon which it did not elaborate.

LIBERIA

Doe Accepts Credentials of New Envoy From Austria

AB282123 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Austrian ambassador to Liberia, Erich Kristen, has presented his letters of credence to the head of state, Commander in Cheif Samuel K. Doe, at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia. Ambassador Kristen is resident in Lagos, Nigeria.

MALI

New Armed Forces Chief of Staff Appointed

AB281745 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] According to a presidential decree, Brigadier Bougari Sangare is appointed the chief of staff of the Armed Forces and will enjoy all the privileges attached to the position in accordance with existing regulations.

NIGERIA

VANGUARD Condemns UK Attitude on Dikko Affair

AB010930 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Press review]

[Text] The *VANGUARD* condemns the lukewarm attitude of the British Government to the extradition of fugitive Umaru Dikko. The paper accuses Britain of using technical arguments and diplomatic maneuvers to retard the Federal Government's efforts to get back Umaru Dikko. The *VANGUARD* is of the opinion that a further British delay in the extradition issue is a breach of diplomatic faith.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Minister Denies Lusophone Forces To Send Troops

MB281630 Luanda ANGOP in English 1600 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Sao Tome, 28 Feb (ANGOP) — The Sao Tomean Minister of Information Manuel Vaz Fernandes, has denied claims made in certain Portuguese media that Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe would send troops to fight armed bandits in Angola and Mozambique.

Manuel Vaz Fernandes, who was the spokesman of the fifth summit of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries, held from February 14th and 15th, in Sao Tome, asserted the denial on the fact that there have been a misinterpretation of an excerpt of declaration of Sao Tome which stated that as in the past, the fifth summit affirms its decision to hoist high the banner of solidarity of fight and communion of sacrifices of our peoples.

It is in this connection that was launched an appeal to all African states and international community to grant to Angola and Mozambique the requested substantial support in means and forces to put an end to the aggressions which they are victims.

The Sao Tomean minister stressed that such news aimed at sowing confusion, with the objective of serving strange interests to the fight of peoples for their independence and sovereignty. [sentence as received]

The situation prevailing in Southern Africa, due to its great importance, deserved the most particular attention of the summit.

At this end, the summit devoted a special declaration, called declaration of Sao Tome, concluded Manuel Vaz Fernandes.

Diouf Discusses Cooperation With Malian Envoy
AB010900 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Modibo Keita, Malian minister of employment and public service, was received this afternoon by President Abdou Diouf. After the meeting, the Malian envoy spoke to our reporter Mady Gueye.

[Begin recording] [Gueye] Mr Minister, you have just been received by the president of the Republic. What are your overall impressions of this meeting in regard to our bilateral and subregional relations?

[Keita] Indeed I have just had the honor of being received by the president of the Republic of Senegal, President Abdou Diouf. His welcome was worthy of the friendship between our two countries and peoples, and we also feel at home when we are in Senegal.

[Gueye] On bilateral and subregional cooperation, do you have anything to say?

[Keita] As you are aware, we are living interdependently at present. Mali and Senegal are involved in a certain number of projects for subregional and bilateral cooperation and, as you aware, after delivering the message from President Moussa Traore to his brother and friend, President Abdou Diouf, we discussed problems of cooperation on the subregional level and cooperation between our two countries.

[Gueye] Mali, your country, is a founding member of the OAU and, as we are all aware, the post of OAU secretary general has not yet been filled. Is it your country's intention to nominate a candidate once more for the post?

[Keita] Mali will examine the situation arising from the last summit and make the necessary decisions.

[Gueye] Thank you, Mr Minister. [end recording]

President Diouf To Leave for Cairo 1 March
AB282206 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] At the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the head of state, President Abdou Diouf, will leave Dakar tomorrow for Cairo, where he will be on an official visit from 2 to 5 March 1985. On this occasion, the head of state and his wife will be accompanied by a high-powered delegation including Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall and his wife; Culture Minister Abdel Kader Fall; Amadou Louis Gueye, first president of the Supreme Court; Moctar Ndaw, parliamentarian at the National Assembly and chairman of the Egypt-Senegal Friendship Association; and His Excellency Chams Eddine Ndoye, Senegal's ambassador to Egypt. The rest are Seydou (Manani Sy), president of the Dakar University, Brigadier Mamadou Mansour (Sow) Seck, the president's personal chief of staff [chef d'etat major particulier du president de la republique], as well as other top officials.

SIERRA LEONE

President Receives New Guinean Envoy, Comments
AB282120 Freetown DAILY MAIL in English 24 Jan 85 pp 1, 12

[Summary] President Siaka Stevens on Tuesday 22 January received the credentials of the first lady ambassador from the Republic of Guinea to Sierra Leone, Mrs Tiguidanke Diakhaby, at the State House. Speaking after he had received her credentials, President Stevens established more firmly his desire to work toward bring in peoples closer together and consolidate friendly relations.

ANGOLA

Joint Communique Issued on Talks With Mongolia

MB281857 Luanda ANGOP in French 1640 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Luanda, 28 Feb (ANGOP) — A protocol for cooperation between the MPLA-Labor Party and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, which will be valid for the next 2 years, was signed in Luanda at the end of a visit made from 18 to 22 February to Angola by a Mongolian party delegation led by Mr Sonomyn Lubsangombo, candidate member of the Politburo and deputy chiarman of his country's Council of Ministers.

The joint communique, which marked the end of the visit, indicates that the two parties expressed their concern over the situation prevailing in southern Africa and reiterated their total support for the struggle of the Namibian and South African peoples led by SWAPO and the ANC respectively for their independence and against the hated apartheid system.

The two delegations also reiterated their total support for the UN Resolution No 435 on Namibia's independence and regarded it as the only legal basis recognized by the international community for settling the Namibian problem. The Mongolian delegation on its part expressed its support for the peaceful initiatives of the frontline countries to transform southern Africa into a zone of peace and security.

The two parties condemned U.S. policy, which is aimed at increasing tension in international relations through the arms race, the use of force and threats, and interference and intervention in the internal affairs of other states. They also reaffirmed their readiness to cooperate to prevent nuclear war, demilitarize outer space, and reduce arms by ending the arms race.

They regarded as particularly important the initiatives presented by the socialist countries with a view to ending the arms race and achieving disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, so as to create a climate of trust and cooperation among states.

On the situation in the Middle East, the two parties expressed their conviction that a just and lasting peace in the region will only be achieved through the withdrawal of Israel from occupied Arab territories, the exercise of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, and the creation of their own independent state.

On the situation in Southeast Asia, they stressed the need to pursue efforts aimed at creating conditions for a general and just settlement of the problems of the region based on the resolution adopted by the seventh summit of the nonaligned countries held in March 1983 in New Delhi, India.

The MPLA-Labor Party and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party also condemned the U.S. interventionist policy, particular in the Caribbean and Latin America, and expressed profound concern over the aggravation of the situation in the region provoked by the constant meddling and provocation against Cuba, Nicaragua, and the El Salvadoran national liberation movements.

They expressed their agreement for establishing a new international economic order based on just and equitable principles and stressed the role of the Nonaligned Movement in the struggle against imperialism and neocolonialism and for disarmament and detente in the international situation. In this regard, the two parties stressed the importance of the forthcoming nonaligned ministerial conference to be held in September this year in Luanda. This event, they stressed, constitutes a great victory for the consolidation of principles and ideals and the unity of the nonaligned countries.

It is worth recalling that during its visit, the Mongolian delegation was received in audience by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, to whom it conveyed a message from Mr Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of Mongolia.

BOTSWANA

Commerce Minister Discusses Zimbabwe Trade

MB281228 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1110 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The minister of commerce and industry, Mr M.P. Kwako Nwako, said if the current problem of trade between Botswana and Zimbabwe persists, a large number of industries could face closure, leading to severe unemployment, especially in the northern areas.

Speaking in parliament yesterday during the debate on the appropriation bill, Mr Nwako said that the manufacturing sector was facing a problem in trading with Zimbabwe. He said many industries, especially in Francistown, established over the past few years, export mainly to neighboring countries, with Zimbabwe as the main customer. However, the recent change in Zimbabwe's rules of original goods had introduced an element of uncertainty among many local industrial enterprises. The minister said Zimbabwean customs officials had advised most of the industries in Botswana that their products cannot qualify for export to Zimbabwe under the new rules of origin.

Referring to latest reports that some industries had already closed down, Mr Nwako said the government was aware of the seriousness of the situation, and had taken up the issue with the Zimbabwean authorities. He said the government has suggested that the materials of either country which are used in the manufacture of a given product in either country be accepted as local materials for the purpose of determining the origin status of a given product. He told parliament that the government remained convinced that this approach would strengthen relations by promoting a healthy two-way trade between Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Briefs

New Envoy From Greece — The President, Dr Masire, this afternoon at State House received the credentials of the Greek ambassador to Botswana, Mr Dhimitrios Koriakos. [Summary] [*Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 28 Feb 85 MB*]

SOUTH AFRICA

R.F. Botha Affirms Commitment to Nkomati Accord

MB010922 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0918 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Cape Town, March 1, SAPA — South Africa would continue efforts to bring about peace in Mozambique, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in Cape Town today. The government was committed to the fulfilment of the Nkomati Accord and would not tolerate acts of interference in that country from South African territory, he said in a statement.

He added that the South African Government associated itself with a statement by the foreign ministers of 10 European countries supporting the Nkomati Accord and deploring continued fighting in Mozambique.

Mr Botha said the government was "very concerned" about the continued conflict in Mozambique and "the destructive consequences" to the country's people. "The government considers interference from external sources as detrimental to the stability and orderly development of all countries in Southern Africa. It is emphasised that the South African Government will continue its endeavours to assist in bringing about peace in Mozambique," Mr Botha said.

The statement by the foreign ministers of Belgium, Denmark, West Germany, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Britain was handed to Mr Botha on Wednesday. In it, the ministers said the understanding reached between Mozambique and South Africa should be respected as part of the efforts being made to bring about increased security and stability in the region.

The ministers expressed regret that fighting continued in Mozambique a year after the signing of the Nkomati Accord and that "external interference" had prevented Mozambique gaining the economic, security and other benefits that should have followed the signing of the pact. They emphasised the importance of the promotion of peace and reconciliation in Mozambique and the "prevention of unauthorised arms deliveries."

Homeland Leaders Meet With Cabinet Committee

MB010950 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0944 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Cape Town, March 1, SAPA — The leaders of five homelands met the special cabinet committee on black constitutional development for talks in Cape Town today.

Dr Cedric Phatudi of Lebowa, Professor Hudson Ntsanwisi of Gazankulu, Dr T.K. Mopeli of Qwa Qwa, Mr S.S. Skonsana of kwaNdebele, and Mr E.J. Mabuza of kaNgwane were in Cape Town to discuss various matters, including "an agenda on constitutional issues," according to a government spokesman.

The meeting was chaired by the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis. Other cabinet members present were Mr Pik Botha, minister of foreign affairs, Mr F.W. de Klerk, minister of home affairs and national education, Mr Louis le Grange, minister of law and order, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, minister of cooperation, development and education, Mr Kobie Coetsee, minister of justice, Mr Barend du Plessis, minister of finance, and Mr Louis Nel, deputy minister of foreign affairs. The commissioners-general of the homelands were also at the meeting. A press statement on the talks is expected later today.

Johannesburg Cites Crocker, Envoy Remarks in U.S.

MB010554 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] The American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, has described as a path of madness any punitive sanctions against South Africa. Addressing a meeting of the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, Dr Crocker defended the Reagan administration's policy of constructive engagement with South Africa, saying that the approach was working. He said that the policy had helped to create a situation in which there was more change going on in South Africa than at any time since World War II. He pointed out that sanctions did not work, noting that a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa — supported by the United States — had simply prompted the South African Government to build a strong arms industry.

Dr Crocker said that polling data had indicated South African blacks did not want santions. He added that, while Americans were united in their opposition to racism, the United States did not have a blueprint for easily solving South Africa's complex racial situation.

The South African ambassador in Washington, Dr Brand Fourie, told the meeting that South Africa was a country undergoing change. He said South Africa was not a country which was wedded to any particular policy.

ANC Prisoner Goldberg Released; Flies to Israel

MB281615 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] A security prisoner who has served 20 years of a life sentence was released today after undertaking to renounce violence as a way of bringing about change in South Africa. His release was confirmed in Cape Town this afternoon by the minister of justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee. In its earlier statement the prison service did not release the name of the freed prisoner, but our Johannesburg news staff has it on good authority that the man is a communist, Dennis Goldberg.

Goldberg was senteced to life imprisonment for sabotage at the Rivonia Trial.

Our Johannesburg news staff reports that Goldberg was released from Robben Island Prison this afternoon and taken to Jan Smuts Airport by a police escort, from where he left for Israel by air, the first ANC terrorist to accept the state president's offer of conditional release, and observers believe this could cause consternation in ANC and communist circles.

SWAZILAND

Mnisi Says Land Deal Discussed With R.F. Botha

MB281725 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The minister for foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, has told members of the House of Assembly that the governments of Swaziland and South Africa are presently dealing with the Ingwavuma and kaNgwane issues very confidentially. Speaking yesterday at the House of Assembly, Mr Mnisi said when the South African minister for foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, was in Swaziland recently, one of the issues they discussed was the land deal. He said if his ministry and that of foreign affairs in South Africa were to release any information on this delicate issue, they could not have reached the stage they are at now.

Mr Mnisi, however, states that it was very important to have a press attache or information officer at his ministry who will deal with matters concerning press statements in his ministry. Mr Mnisi also appealed for more posts of political advisers in the country's foreign missions.

ZIMBABWE

ZAPU Officials Arrested for Bulawayo Violence

MB010856 Johannebsurg SAPA in English 0847 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Harare, March 1, SAPA — Some opposition ZAPU party officials have been arrested and more are expected to be detained in connection with the violence in Bulawayo last weekend which left at least two people dead and several others injured, according to the minister of home affairs, Mr Simbi Mubako.

He said in Harare yesterday police investigations had found the violence had been organised by ZAPU. "Looking at the scale of the violence, which the police found very difficult to contend with, it was clear that the whole thing had been planned by ZAPU and there are possibilities that high-ranking officials were involved. But we can't just jump to conclusions," he said.

Mr Mubako said that although there were enough policemen to deal with any kind of situation, special attention was being given to Matabeleland. "We have deployed more security forces in Matebeleland than in any other province because we expect trouble from that province for a long time and we continue to expect problems..."

ZAPU supporters were unleashing uncalled-for violence against ZANU-PF members in areas where they were strong, Mr Mubako said.

Asked to comment on recent accusations against the government by the UANC [United African National Council] leader, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, over the Hwange shootings, Mr Mubako said: "I regard those accusations as outrageous. He should not blame it on the ZANU-PF government because we all condemn violence because it affects everybody...and that is why we are fighting it."

ZANU-PF had lost more people in political violence than any other party. "Anyway, I don't see why he should blame the government when it is that same government which has arrested the culprits."

Radio Truth Criticizes U.S., UK Support for Regime

MB281012 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is interesting to see just how the Western nations, the British and the Americans in particular, avoid saying anything that might upset the ZANU-PF regime in Harare.

To a casual observer, Zimbabwe might appear to be one of the few remaining shining jewels in the crown of freedom and democracy for all the criticism that is levelled from the West. In fact, as well you know, the United States has boosted its aid to Zimbabwe each year, which is a great deal of money, until you work out Zimbabwe's debts. The ZANU-PF regime must be congratulated, for they have been pulling the wool over the eyes of the Americans in a very cunning manner and guaranteed themselves a measure of support by so doing. They have discovered the secret of continuing aid by the West, and the secret is communist rhetoric. The more you stamp and threaten, the more you run down the West and capitalism, the more money you can expect.

It is interesting to note that even at the height of the slaughter by the 5th Brigade in Matabeleland, not one single Western government spoke up against the killings. Instead, it was left to journalists and to the clergy, both of whom were quickly muzzled. This alone indicates the fear in Western capitals that should they dare to criticize the Zimbabwe regime they may drive it even further into the waiting arms of the communist bloc.

The Americans generally have expressed grave concern over statements by the regime, but Washington chooses to ignore them for the moment, saying that they are just rhetoric.

Even dear old short-sighted-to-the-end Britain is having second thoughts, and sees ZANU-PF as having abandoned its stand of nonalignment in favour of a commitment to the Eastern bloc — and about time too.

But what is this nonalignment really all about? Could anyone really believe for one moment that countries such as Red China and Cuba are nonaligned? Of course not, and this is because the very term has been corrupted to mean theoretical nonalignment rather than factual nonalignment. In other words, Cuba, as an example, can be communist to the eyebrows, but as long as it professes to be nonaligned, the gullible accept it as a true reflection of their foreign policy.

Of course, all this is just another exercise in rhetoric, but it has served to blind much of the Western world for 4 decades, and, (?as such), will be considered as having more than served its purpose. It is this constant chant of nonalignment and another, the balance of terror, which has gulled the West into dangerous and muddleheaded decisions and actions.

Many of us can remember just a decade or so ago when the United States enjoyed a four or five to one majority in just about every type of military weapon or craft, yet today almost the reverse is true and the West has thrown away many of the advantages it enjoyed. America even appears to be contributing to its own downfall by selling to Russia equipment which could be used for military purposes. Furthermore, it is no exaggeration to say that if the West ceased shipping wheat and other foodstuffs to Russia, the country would collapse like a pricked balloon. Why then, when such a massive control can be exerted from Washington, does the United States quite literally not pull the plug on Moscow and allow it to sink?

To a simple human being living in Kansas, this might appear to be the obvious answer to all his problems, but actually the problem and its solution are far more complex. America and Britain, like most of the rest of the free world states, are heavily overproduced with all kinds of goods and food stuffs, and have to find alternative markets to survive. The Eastern bloc has revealed its socialist policies to be an absolute failure, and most of its members, particularly the Russians, cannot even feed themselves, but the battle to fill bellies is really only the first step in an arduous campaign to capture minds and hearts, and the minds and hearts everyone is after reside in the guise of the Nonaligned Movement.

The struggle today is really for souls and resources rather than territorial gains, and the war — for a war it is — has been waged bitterly by both the Soviet Union and the United States for decades.

By plumping for membership in the so-called Nonaligned Movement, our ZANU-PF regime has hoped and succeeded in obtaining what they think is the best of both worlds. The ZANU-PF would have us believe that we can enjoy our money from the West and our politics from the East. However, our ZANU-PF regime and Zimbabwe have moved onto very dangerous grounds, and, once committed, there is no turning back. Russia is not seeking theoretical commitment, but actual commitment, and the campaign being waged for Zimbabwe is not so much hearts and minds, as bodies, souls, and resources.

The West is trying to maintain Zimbabwe in a relatively stable condition until such a time as either the ZANU-PF is a thing of the past, or we Zimbabweans come to our senses. If our present regime continues to drag Zimbabwe to the left, it will not be long before Zimbabwe is in the front line of a new war, far more devastating than any fought before.

Already, Zimbabwe is overrun with Russia's handmaidens — North Koreans, Cubans, Bulgarians, Romanians — and each year we have more. Now more Russians themselves are coming into Zimbabwe. Each day Russia is showing her presence more clearly in our country, and Zimbabwe's policies are beginning to reflect the stamp of its new masters.

The West will stand by and watch for a while longer, but, should the drift continue, Western states will have no recourse other than to shake their heads and abandon Zimbabwe to its fate.